



WHY BE A DEMENTIA FRIENDLY HOSPITAL?

"The patient came in to the hospital with dementia and when she leaves the hospital will still have dementia. We can't do anything about the dementia. We have to treat the admitting disease or condition. Why focus on dementia?"

Compared with other older patients, those with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias have:

- **3 times** more hospitalizations
- **4 times** more hospital days
- **Almost 3 times** more ER visits*

Health Risks in Hospitalized Patients with Dementia

*Porell, Medicare Chronic Condition

Warehouse, 2009

- **Delirium**- Dementia is the leading risk factor for delirium. Patients with dementia account for **4 out of 6** cases of delirium in hospitals.
- **Falls**- Hospital patients with dementia are **2 to 4 times** more likely than other older patients to fall in the hospital.
- **New incontinence**- Hospital patients with dementia are more likely than other older patients to develop new incontinence. A study of 81 hospitals in Italy found that those with dementia were **5 times** more likely to develop new urinary incontinence and **6 times** more likely to develop fecal incontinence.
- **Indwelling urinary catheters**- Hospital patients with dementia are at greater risk than other older patients for placement of an indwelling urinary catheter without a specific clinical indication.
- **Pressure ulcers**- Hospital patients with dementia are **5 times** more likely than other older patients to develop pressure sores.
- **Wandering**- Hospital patients with dementia are more likely to wander due to unfamiliar surroundings, people and procedures. **60%** of patients with dementia will wander at some point in the disease.

Most Dementia Patients are Hospitalized for Treatment of Another Medical Condition-Not Dementia. Dementia complicates their treatment and creates more hospitalizations and an increased length of stay:

- **Coronary Heart Disease + Dementia = 42% more hospitalizations and double the length of stay (6 days vs. 3 days)**
- **Diabetes + Dementia = 64% more and double the length of stay (6 days vs. 3 days)**

To learn more: Visit us at www.dementiacarepbc.org

