

National Audit of Dementia (care in general hospitals)

Environmental Checklist



This checklist looks at aspects of the ward physical environment known to impact on people with dementia. Standards have been drawn from national and professional guidance. A full bibliography for the standards in this audit can be found at www.nationalauditofdementia.org.uk

The checklist should be completed by the sister/manager of the ward, the clinician from the local team doing the audit collection, and a lay person (for example a patient/carer representative, a board member or an advocate). Answers should reflect the appearance/layout of the ward at the time of completion.

Hospital code

Ward code

Ward Size and Layout

Number of beds

Number of single sex bays

Number of mixed bays

Number of single rooms

Section 1: The Ward/Signage

Signs should display information in a consistent and simple way. They should be positioned on the ward so they can be easily seen by patients and designed so they are readable and easy to understand - clearly contrasted, placed at a suitable height on the wall etc.

1 **Colour schemes are used to help patients with dementia to find their way around the ward** (*e.g. doors and bays are painted in a different colour*)

Yes

No

2 **Key areas are clearly marked** (*e.g. the nursing station, the bathroom, any side rooms or waiting areas*)

Yes

No

3 **Signs/maps are large, bold and distinctive**

Yes

No

4 **Information (words and pictures) on signs is in clear contrast to the background**

Yes

No

Section 2: Floors

5 **Level changes and contrasts (gentle slopes and steps) are clearly marked**

Yes

No

6 **Floors are plain or subtly patterned, not 'busy'** (*e.g. without bold or high contrast design or pattern which could affect orientation*)

Yes

No

7 **Floor surfaces are subtly polished rather than high gloss**

Yes

No

8 Floor surfaces are non slip

Yes

No

Section 3: Bed/Rest Area

9 Patients with dementia are situated on the ward where they are visible to staff and staff are visible to them

All patients

Some patients

Most patients

No patients

10 Patients with dementia are able to see a clock from their bed area

Yes

No

11 Patients with dementia are able to see a calendar from their bed area
(this can be an orientation board)

Yes

No

12 For patients with dementia, messages from relatives and personal objects, including self care items, are situated where the patient can see them at all times

Yes

No

13 A room/area is available for patients to use for a break from the ward environment (e.g. a 'quiet room', patient's lounge or seating area)

Yes

No

Section 4: Accessible Toilet and Bathing Facilities

14 Signs to locate the toilet are visible from the patient's bed area/door of room

Yes

No

15 Toilet and bathroom doors carry signs

Yes

No

16 Toilet and bathroom doors are a different colour to the walls

Yes

No

- 17 **Items such as the soap dispenser, the bin, the hand dryer, are clearly labelled with pictures as well as words so that the patient can identify them**
 Yes No
- 18 **There are hand rails, large handles and a raised toilet seat to support patients**
 Yes No
- 19 **Door handles are a different colour to the wall so that they stand out**
 Yes No
- 20 **Toilet paper is a different colour to the wall so that it stands out**
 Yes No
- 21 **The toilets are big enough for assisted toileting**
 Yes No
- 22 **The bathroom is big enough for assisted bathing**
 Yes No
- 23 **Single sex toilet/washing facilities are provided for patient use**
 Yes No
- 24 **Facilities are available so that patients have choices about bathing or assisted bathing** (*e.g. at the sink, overhead showering, hand held shower head, full bath*)
 Yes No
- 25 **There are call/alarm buttons visible in the toilet/bathroom**
 Yes No

Section 5: Promoting Independence

- 26 **There is space for restless patients with dementia to walk up and down where they are visible to staff and staff are visible to them**
 Yes No

27 **The ward is adapted to assist people with mobility difficulties (e.g. large handles, hand rails)**

Yes

No

28 **The ward can readily provide equipment to assist mobility (e.g. walking frames, wheelchairs)**

Yes

No

29 **The ward can provide hearing aids such as amplifiers/communicators/hearing loops/batteries for personal aids or other assistive devices**

Yes

No

30 **The ward can provide adapted utensils to encourage patients to assist themselves with their meal and eat independently**

Yes

No

Any comments on the environmental checklist:

**Please enter all data online at
www.nationalauditofdementia.org.uk
If you have any queries, please contact the
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