Refreshing the Admiral Nurse Competency Framework

University of Worcester
Association for Dementia Studies

Developing a resource for practice

Background:
Dementia UK's Admiral Nurse Competency Framework has existed since 2003, but the role of Admiral Nurses has evolved greatly in the past few years.

The range of settings in which Admiral Nurses work has become more diverse, and the complexity of the Admiral Nurse role is often underestimated.

It was decided that the Admiral Nurse Competency Framework should be refreshed to reflect these changes and become a practical everyday resource for Admiral Nurses.

The Association for Dementia Studies undertook a variety of activities to assess what was required from the Admiral Nurse Competency Framework.

The process included a literature review, survey, telephone interviews, focus groups and a Reference Group.

Admiral Nurses were involved at every stage to ensure the refreshed Admiral Nurse Competency Framework reflected their needs and was fit for purpose.

Guiding principles for the refresh process:
- Streamline the framework whilst ensuring it still underpins practice
- Incorporate the essence of the previous framework in a way that makes it applicable to a range of settings
- Articulate the complexity of the Admiral Nurse role
- Use evidence-based reflective practice as the cornerstone of the framework

DementiaUK
Helping families face dementia

The Admiral Nurse Competency Framework was also developed as an online PebblePad workbook.

This should enable Admiral Nurses to easily gather appropriate evidence of practice in their own individual portfolios.

These portfolios can be used to support the Nursing and Midwifery Council revalidation process and appraisals within their host organisations.

Who are Admiral Nurses?
Admiral Nurses are specialist dementia nurses who work predominantly with carers but also people with dementia. They generally work in complex family situations on a longer term basis with no fixed discharge time.

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