

# Effective home support dementia care

<b>Submission date</b> 25/07/2016	<b>Recruitment status</b> No longer recruiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protocol
<b>Registration date</b> 29/07/2016	<b>Overall study status</b> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
<b>Last Edited</b> 30/08/2023	<b>Condition category</b> Mental and Behavioural Disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

## Plain English summary of protocol

### Background and study aims

Dementia is a common condition in the aging population. People with dementia have difficulties with mental processes such as memory, language, reasoning and identifying people and objects, which become progressively worst over time. People are now living longer, meaning that dementia represents a significant public health and care challenge. About 60% of people with dementia live in their own homes but finding the best ways of helping them to live well at home and supporting their carers is a challenge. Although more innovative home support services, from the NHS, social care and voluntary organisations exist in some areas, they are often underdeveloped. The study will be for those in early stage dementia, receiving care through memory clinics. The aim of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of memory aids (a tool used to trigger memory), delivered by Dementia Support Practitioners (DSPs).

### Who can participate?

Adults aged 50 years and over with early stage dementia who are under the care of a participating memory clinic or equivalent.

### What does the study involve?

Practices are randomly allocated to one of two groups. Those in the first group receive specialist advice, information and memory aids from DSPs, as well as usual care from the memory clinic or equivalent that they attend. The memory aids pack includes a calendar or clock, whiteboard with electric time, and 'post-it' note dispenser. Those in the second group receive usual care from memory clinics with a general guide to dementia for patients and carers. Participants and their carers are visited at the start of the study and then three and 12 months later to be interviewed about their opinions, quality of life and use of services in order to establish the effectiveness of the DSP program.

### What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

Participants may or may not benefit from participating in the treatment from the DSP. If participants are not chosen to take part in the treatment, there may be no direct benefits from taking part in the study. However, the information participants provide will help to strengthen the evidence for developing more appropriate support at home for those in early stage dementia. There are no notable risks involved with participating in this study.

Where is the study run from?

Nine Memory clinics or Older Adult Services in England (UK)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

July 2015 to September 2018

Who is funding the study?

National Institute for Health Research (UK)

Who is the main contact?

Dr Paul Clarkson

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## Contact information

### Type(s)

Scientific

### Contact name

Dr Paul Clarkson

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## Additional identifiers

### Protocol serial number

31288

## Study information

### Scientific Title

Effective home support in dementia care: Project 2.1 dementia early stage cognitive aids new trial

### Acronym

DESCANT

### Study objectives

The aim of this study is to evaluate whether memory aids, delivered by Dementia Support Practitioners (DSPs), are effective and cost-effective.

**Ethics approval required**

Old ethics approval format

**Ethics approval(s)**

North West - Haydock Research Ethics Committee, 20/06/2016, ref: 16/NW/0389

**Primary study design**

Interventional

**Study design**

Randomised; Interventional; Design type: Treatment, Process of Care, Device, Rehabilitation

**Study type(s)**

Treatment

**Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied**

Dementia

**Interventions**

Randomisation will take place after baseline interviews with consented participants but before data entry in MACRO4, the data entry database used in the study. On receiving completed screening forms and baseline interview schedules, the Trial Manager will complete a randomisation request form and email this to the Trials Unit (Swansea Trials Unit - STU). The participant will then be randomised by the Assistant Trial Manager at STU who will email the Trial Manager with a PDF with details of the allocation. Participants will be allocated on a 1:1 basis into Intervention: Dementia Support Practitioner – DSP or Comparator: Treatment As Usual – TAU without DSP.

Comparator: Participants will receive a general guide to dementia for patients and carers as well as treatment as usual (TAU) in the form of support from their carers with or without help from memory clinic staff, post-diagnostic counselling and advice, and specialist follow-up.

Intervention: Dementia Support Practitioners (DSPs) will augment TAU with specialist advice, information and memory aids. They will dispense appropriate aids; and provide training in using these aids and general advice about improving memory. Their standard pack of memory aids will include: calendar or clock, whiteboard with electric time, and 'post-it' note dispenser, with a budget of £150 per participant. Support and follow-up will seek to ensure correct use of the aids. DSPs will work alongside any existing support and offer the memory aids in addition. The total duration of treatment will be 4 weeks.

For participants in both groups, follow up will be at 3 and 12 months after baseline (referral from memory clinic).

**Intervention Type**

Other

**Primary outcome(s)**

Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) are measured using the Bristol Activities of Daily Living Scale (BADLS) at baseline, 3, and 12 months.

## **Key secondary outcome(s)**

1. Cognitive function measured using the Standardised Mini-Mental State Examination (S-MMSE) at baseline, 3, and 12 months
2. Quality of life measured using DEMQOL and DEMQOL-PROXY (carer rated) at baseline, 3, and 12 months
3. Health status measured using the EQ-5D-5L at baseline, 3, and 12 months
4. Service receipt measured using the Client Service Receipt Inventory and the Resource Utilisation in Dementia (RUD) at baseline, 3, and 12 months
5. Minor psychiatric morbidity in carers measured using the General Health Questionnaire (GHQ-12) at baseline, 3, and 12 months
6. Carer coping measured using the Short Sense of Competence Questionnaire (SSCQ) at baseline, 3, and 12 months
7. Carer rating of patients' performance of activities measured using the Revised Interview for Deterioration in Daily living activities in Dementia (R-IDDD) at baseline, 3, and 12 months
8. Patient quality of life measured using the ICECAP-O and CASP-19 at baseline, 3, and 12 months

## **Completion date**

31/12/2019

## **Eligibility**

### **Key inclusion criteria**

Participants with dementia:

1. Aged 50 years or older
2. Under care of one of the trial memory clinics or equivalent
3. Within one year of their first attendance at that clinic
4. Dementia is of mild to moderate severity
5. Physically able to engage with the intervention, usually as judged by researcher
6. Clinically able to engage with the intervention, usually as judged by responsible clinician
7. Living in their own home, or sharing a home with relative (i.e. not in residential or nursing home at baseline)

Carers:

The primary person who feels responsible for, and supports, the person with dementia. They may be any age and may live with the person with dementia or independently.

### **Participant type(s)**

Patient

### **Healthy volunteers allowed**

No

### **Age group**

Adult

### **Sex**

All

### **Total final enrolment**

468

## **Key exclusion criteria**

Participants with dementia:

1. Individuals who are under 50 years of age
2. Advanced dementia, e.g. in late stages
3. Resident outside local authority boundary served by the service
4. Those currently undergoing emergency treatment or care

## **Date of first enrolment**

12/09/2016

## **Date of final enrolment**

15/04/2019

## **Locations**

### **Countries of recruitment**

United Kingdom

England

### **Study participating centre**

#### **Stockport Memory Service**

The Meadows  
Owens Farm Drive  
Offerton  
United Kingdom  
SK2 5EQ

### **Study participating centre**

#### **Tameside Memory Service**

Etherow Building  
Tameside Hospital  
Fountain Street  
Ashton under Lyne  
United Kingdom  
OL6 9RW

### **Study participating centre**

#### **Oldham Memory Service**

Forrest House  
Royal Oldham Hospital  
Westhulme Avenue  
Oldham  
United Kingdom  
OL1 2PN

**Study participating centre**  
**Rochdale Memory Service**  
Watergrove Day Hospital  
Birch Hill Hospital  
Union Road  
Rochdale  
United Kingdom  
OL12 9QB

**Study participating centre**  
**Bury Memory Service**  
The Ribchester Centre  
Bury  
United Kingdom  
BL9 0JT

**Study participating centre**  
**Havering Older Adults Services**  
Victoria Centre  
Pettits Lane  
Romford  
United Kingdom  
RM1 4HP

**Study participating centre**  
**Barking and Dagenham Older Adults Services**  
Broad Street Health Centre  
Morland Road  
Dagenham  
United Kingdom  
RM10 9HU

**Study participating centre**  
**Waltham Forest Memory Service**  
Red Oak Lodge  
Leytonstone  
London  
United Kingdom  
E11 4HU

**Study participating centre**  
**Redbridge Older Adults Services**  
Older Adult Mental Health Team  
Goodmayes Hospital  
Barley Lane  
Goodmayes  
United Kingdom  
IG3 8XJ

## Sponsor information

**Organisation**  
The University of Manchester

**ROR**  
<https://ror.org/027m9bs27>

## Funder(s)

**Funder type**  
Government

**Funder Name**  
National Institute for Health Research

**Alternative Name(s)**  
National Institute for Health Research, NIHR Research, NIHRresearch, NIHR - National Institute for Health Research, NIHR (The National Institute for Health and Care Research), NIHR

**Funding Body Type**  
Government organisation

**Funding Body Subtype**  
National government

**Location**  
United Kingdom

## Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are not expected to be made available

### IPD sharing plan summary

Not expected to be made available

### Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
<a href="#">Results article</a>	results	19/10/2021	22/10/2021	Yes	No
<a href="#">Results article</a>		30/06/2021	30/08/2023	Yes	No
<a href="#">Protocol article</a>	protocol	10/10/2018	10/12/2020	Yes	No
<a href="#">HRA research summary</a>			28/06/2023	No	No