

# Development of a guideline for the early detection of psychosis in long-term care facilities

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<b>Registration date</b> 16/10/2025	<b>Overall study status</b> Ongoing	<input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
<b>Last Edited</b> 16/10/2025	<b>Condition category</b> Mental and Behavioural Disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan
		<input type="checkbox"/> Results
		<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Record updated in last year

## Plain English summary of protocol

### Background and study aims

This study develops a practice-oriented clinical guideline for the care of nursing home residents with psychotic symptoms. Psychosis is frequent yet often underestimated in this population, leading to missed care and unnecessary suffering. It is characterized by delusions, hallucinations, and profound disruption of identity and reality. The study aims to map the prevalence, characteristics, and correlates of psychotic symptoms and related needs, identify organizational and experiential barriers, and develop evidence- and expert-based recommendations to improve care and quality of life.

### Who can participate?

The study includes three groups of participants from participating care facilities: nursing home residents, healthcare professionals, and family members. Healthcare professionals and family members are included based on their professional or personal involvement with the residents.

### What does the study involve?

Residents are assessed using standardized behavioral scales (NPI-NH, BEHAVE-AD, Cornell Depression Scale, Doloplus-2), the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA), and a structured DSM-5-based interview for psychotic symptoms, anxiety, and depression. Residents with significant psychotic symptoms undergo a multidisciplinary needs-based analysis and pharmacological review involving a geriatrician, psychiatrist, neurologist, and pharmacist. Healthcare professionals and family members participate in focus groups to capture organizational and experiential barriers in daily care.

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

Participants may benefit from a better understanding of their or residents' needs, improved awareness among staff, and contributions to a guideline that may enhance future care. Risks are minimal and mainly involve the time required to complete assessments or participate in interviews and focus groups; all data are handled confidentially.

Where is the study run from?  
University College Odisee (Belgium)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?  
June 2025 to April 2027

Who is funding the study?  
University College Odisee (Belgium)

Who is the main contact?  
Hilde Lahaye, hilde.lahaye@odisee.be

## Contact information

### Type(s)

Public, Scientific, Principal investigator

### Contact name

Mrs Hilde Lahaye

### ORCID ID

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## Additional identifiers

## Study information

### Scientific Title

Unmet care needs among residents of long-term care facilities with moderate to severe psychotic symptoms

### Acronym

PHARE

### Study objectives

Psychotic symptoms such as delusions and hallucinations affect up to one in five residents in long-term care facilities, yet they are often overlooked, normalized, or misattributed to dementia or psychiatric history. This normalization results in care gaps, as psychotic symptoms are rarely acknowledged as indicators of unmet needs requiring appropriate and tailored interventions. Instead, psychotropic medication is frequently prescribed, despite well-documented concerns regarding appropriateness, side effects, and limited effectiveness. General practitioners themselves report insufficient knowledge and uncertainty in managing

these symptoms, further contributing to inadequate care. Previous research has shown that a needs-based care approach can significantly improve outcomes in residents, but psychotic symptoms have remained largely underexplored. When recognized, they reveal profound distress, fear, and existential disruption for residents and their caregivers. This study therefore aims to close a critical gap by mapping missed care, conducting medication reviews, and developing a practical guideline to improve early detection and appropriate support for residents with psychotic symptoms.

### **Ethics approval required**

Ethics approval required

### **Ethics approval(s)**

approved 26/05/2025, Committee of Ethics Antwerp University Hospital (Drie Eikenstraat 655, Edegem, 2650, Belgium; +32 (0)38213897; ethisch.comite@uza.be), ref: B3002025000079

### **Study design**

Multicentre cross-sectional study

### **Primary study design**

Observational

### **Study type(s)**

Prevention, Quality of life

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

Older adults in nursing homes with moderate and severe psychotic symptoms

### **Interventions**

This multicentre, observational study combines cross-sectional and mixed-methods approaches over 1.5 years to inform the development of a practice-oriented clinical guideline for nursing home residents with psychotic symptoms. In the preparatory phase, residents are assessed using standardized behavioral scales, including the NPI-NH, Cornell Depression Scale, and Doloplus-2, alongside the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) and a structured clinical interview based on DSM-5 criteria for psychotic symptoms, anxiety, and depression, conducted by trained psychologists. Quality of life is evaluated using the WHOQOL-8 questionnaire and semistructured interviews. Residents with significant psychotic symptoms (NPI-NH score  $\geq 6$  on delusions and/or hallucinations) will undergo a detailed needs-based analysis to identify missed care and care priorities, as well as a multidisciplinary pharmacological review involving a geriatrician, psychiatrist, neurologist, and pharmacist to evaluate the appropriateness of treatment. Focus groups with professionals, residents, and family members will capture organizational and experiential barriers in daily care. Findings from these assessments will inform the identification of key clinical and organizational questions, guide evidence-based recommendations, and support the development of a practical guideline aimed at improving care and quality of life.

### **Intervention Type**

Other

### **Primary outcome(s)**

Prevalence and characteristics of psychotic symptoms measured using the Neuropsychiatric Inventory-Nursing Home version (NPI-NH) and a structured DSM-5-based clinical interview at baseline

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

1. Quality of life measured using the WHOQOL-8 questionnaire and semi-structured interviews at baseline
2. Cognitive status measured using the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) at baseline
3. Depressive symptoms measured via the NPI-NH, the Cornell Depression Scale and a structured DSM-5-based clinical interview at baseline
4. Pain levels measured using the Dolopius-2 scale at baseline
5. Anxiety symptoms measured via the NPI-NH and a structured DSM-5-based clinical interview at baseline
6. Prevalence and description of missed care identified through a detailed multidisciplinary needs-based analysis and focus groups with professionals, residents, and family members at baseline
7. Prevalence and appropriateness of pharmaceutical care evaluated through a multidisciplinary medication review involving a geriatrician, psychiatrist, neurologist, and pharmacist at baseline

### **Completion date**

30/04/2027

## **Eligibility**

### **Key inclusion criteria**

The study includes nursing home residents, healthcare professionals, and family members from participating care facilities. There are no specific inclusion criteria beyond residency or professional/family involvement in the care of the residents.

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

Health professional, Carer, Resident

### **Healthy volunteers allowed**

No

### **Age group**

Mixed

### **Lower age limit**

18 years

### **Sex**

All

### **Key exclusion criteria**

Does not meet the inclusion criteria

### **Date of first enrolment**

01/09/2025

**Date of final enrolment**

30/04/2027

**Locations****Countries of recruitment**

Belgium

**Study participating centre****Nursing Home Heilig Hart**

Tereken 14

Sint-Niklaas

Belgium

9100

**Study participating centre****Nursing Home Het Hof**

Hofstraat 134

Sint-Niklaas

Belgium

9100

**Study participating centre****Nursing Home Hoevezavel**

Jan Davidlaan 11

Lommel

Belgium

3920

**Study participating centre****Nursing Home Kapittelhof**

Kapittelhof 1

Lommel

Belgium

3920

**Study participating centre****Nursing Home Villa Hugardis**

Maagdenblokstraat 21

Hoegaarden  
Belgium  
3320

**Study participating centre**  
**Nursing Home Sint-Franciscus**  
Kwaremontplein 41  
Kluisbergen  
Belgium  
9690

**Study participating centre**  
**Nursing Home Huize Roborst**  
Kloosterstraat 1  
Zwalm  
Belgium  
9630

**Study participating centre**  
**Nursing Home Haagwinde**  
Hasselstraat 7  
Maarkedal  
Belgium  
9680

**Study participating centre**  
**Nursing Home Betlehem**  
Wilselsesteenweg 70  
Herent  
Belgium  
3020

**Study participating centre**  
**Nursing Home Ocura**  
Havenlaan 7  
Beringen-Koersel  
Belgium  
3582

**Study participating centre**  
**Nursing Home Ocura**  
Trompetplein 1  
Herk-de-Stad  
Belgium  
3540

**Study participating centre**  
**Nursing Home Ocura**  
Hellebronstraat 8  
Montenaken  
Belgium  
3890

**Study participating centre**  
**Nursing Home Ocura**  
Kloosterstraat 21  
's Gravenvoeren  
Belgium  
3798

## **Sponsor information**

**Organisation**  
University College Odisee

**ROR**  
<https://ror.org/02c89h825>

## **Funder(s)**

**Funder type**  
University/education

**Funder Name**  
University College Odisee

## **Results and Publications**

## Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study will be available upon request from Hilde Lahaye (hilde.lahaye@odisee.be).

## IPD sharing plan summary

Available on request

## Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
<a href="#">Study website</a>	Study website	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes