

OVERVIEW OF “DEMENTIA” FAMILY PRACTICE SKILLS COURSE

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INTRODUCTION

This Family Practice Skills Course on Dementia builds on the course that the College ran jointly with the Ministry of Health in 2011. The novelty of the 2011 course was the inclusion of Dementia under the Chronic Disease Management Programme.

What about the newness of this Skills Course? We have two new units – namely Unit 2 – Early diagnosis of dementia in primary care setting, and Unit 6 – Community Resources for Patients and Caregivers which are now coordinated by Agency for Integrated Care (AIC). These replaced Unit 5 and Unit 6 which have now been summarised as useful information in Dementia Management in this issue. The remaining papers in this Family Practice Skills Course – Overview and Diagnosis (Unit 1), Behavioural and Psychological symptoms of dementia (Unit 3), and Pharmacological treatment of Dementia (Unit 4) have been updated where needed to information current as of early 2013.

We would therefore like to recommend this Family Practice Skills Course to all Family Physicians. Thanks are due to the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC), Institute of Mental Health (IMH) and Ministry of Health (MOH) for supporting this Family Practice Skills Course.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CME POINTS

This Family Practice Skills Course is made up of the following components. You can choose to participate in one or more parts of it. The CME points that will be awarded are also indicated below.

Components and CME Points

- Distance Learning Course – 6 units (6 Core FM CME points upon attaining a minimum pass grade of 60% in Distance Learning Online MCQ Assessment)
- 2 Seminars (2 Core FM CME points per seminar)
- 2 Workshops (1 Core FM CME point per workshop)
- 10 Readings – read 5 out of 10 recommended journals (maximum of 5 CME points for the whole CME year)

Distance Learning Course

- Unit 1 : Overview of Dementia and Diagnosis of Dementia
Dr Nagaendran Kandiah
- Unit 2 : Early Diagnosis of Dementia in the Primary Care Setting
Dr Dennis Seow Chuen Chai
- Unit 3 : Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia
Dr Ng Li-Ling
- Unit 4 : Pharmacological Treatment of Dementia
Dr Lim Wee Shiong
- Unit 5 : The Role of GPs in Helping Caregivers of Persons with Dementia
Dr Dennis Seow Chuen Chai, Dr Philip Yap Lin Kiat
- Unit 6 : Community Resources for Patients and Caregivers
See Yen Theng

COURSE TOPIC DETAILS

Unit 1: Overview of Dementia and Diagnosis of Dementia

- Introduction
- Epidemiology
- Etiology and Risk Factors
- Mild Cognitive Impairment
- Assessment
- Investigations
- Management
- Conclusions

Unit 2: Early Diagnosis of Dementia in the Primary Care Setting

- Introduction
- Barriers to Early Diagnosis
- Enablers of Early Diagnosis
- A Workflow Process for Initial Evaluation of Cognitive Complaints and Early Referral at the GP Clinic
- Additional Tips for GPs
- Conclusion

Unit 3: Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia

- Introduction
- Definition
- Assessment
- Management

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Unit 4: Pharmacological Treatment of Dementia

- Introduction
- Overview
- Cholinesterase Inhibitors
- NDMA Antagonists
- Common Issues in the Use of Dementia-specific Drugs
- New Frontiers in Dementia Treatment

Unit 5: The Role of GPs in Helping Caregivers of Persons with Dementia

- Introduction
- Caregivers
- Caregivers' Experiences with GPs
- Optimal Care and the Health Care Triad
- Management and Support of Caregiver
- Conclusion

Unit 6: Community Resources for Patients and Caregivers

- Ageing Population & Dementia
- Need for Community Resources
- Current Resources for Elderly and Dementia Care
- New Resources for Dementia Care
- Quick Search for Eldercare Services
- Quick Referral Steps for Services
- Helpline
- Why should you be part of the Mental Health GP Partnership Programme (GPPP)?

FACE-TO-FACE SESSIONS**Seminar 1: 1 June 2013, 2.00pm – 4.00pm**

Unit 1 : Overview of Dementia and Diagnosis of Dementia

Dr Nagaendran Kandiah

Unit 2 : Early Diagnosis of Dementia in the Primary Care Setting

Dr Dennis Seow Chuen Chai

Unit 3 : Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia

*Dr Seng Kok Han***Workshop 1: 1 June 2013, 4.30pm – 6.00pm**

(A) Cognitive and Functional Assessments, Early Diagnosis and Early Referral

Dr Dennis Seow Chuen Chai, Dr Nagaendran Kandiah

(B) Non-pharmacological Management of Behaviours

*Dr Seng Kok Han, Dr Ng Li-Ling***Seminar 2: 2 June 2013, 2.00pm – 4.00pm**

Unit 4 : Pharmacological Treatment of Dementia

Dr Lim Wee Shiong

Unit 5 : The Role of GPs in Helping Caregivers of Persons with Dementia

Dr Philip Yap Lin Kiat

Unit 6: Community Resources for Patients and Caregivers

*See Yen Theng***Workshop 2: 2 June 2013, 4.00pm – 5.30pm**

Chronic Disease Management Programme (CDMP) on Dementia; Case Studies

Dr Chong Mei Sian