

Cognitive Impairment in Older Adults

Practical Tools and Resources for Early Detection,
Management, and Support

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Background

- Early and timely recognition of cognitive decline shows clear benefits from ethical, safety and financial planning perspectives.
- Identification of dementia in at risk patients mostly happens at a time of crisis or hospitalization or late in disease.
- Early and timely recognition of dementia in primary care remains challenging, and calls for resources and support for Family Physicians.

Background

- Family physicians are involved in assessment and routine care for patients suspected/diagnosed with dementia
- Patients, caregivers and providers prefer a diagnosis of MCI/dementia early in order to improve QoL and health outcomes including:
 - Identification and treatment of reversible causes
 - Medical treatment and management
 - Information and education
 - Advance Care Planning
 - Caregiver support
 - Mobilization of services and other supports
 - Chronic disease management
 - Lower cost of care
- Providers express need to be prepared to recognize cognitive decline early and properly diagnose and manage dementia in older adults

Project Goal

- The overall goal of the project is to provide primary care clinicians with a consensus-based, effective and practical platform of currently existing tools and evidence to screen, assess, diagnose, and effectively manage older adults with or at risk for cognitive decline and dementia

Cognitive Care Kit Project

- Recruited ten Family Physicians with high engagement in cognitive issues in older adults
- FPs identified and prioritized tools and resources for dissemination through an effective platform for use in practice

Toolkit

- <https://aafp.org/cognitive-care>
- Divided into topical sections
- Includes recommended tools and resources for physicians
- Also includes resources for the patients, families and caregivers

Scenario #1

- What is the most common practice situation that you experience related to cognitive impairment?

Scenario #2

- What is the most challenging practice situation that you experience related to cognitive impairment?

Next Steps

- What do you think we should do next for improving detection, diagnosis, disclosure and management of cognitive impairment?
- What additional resources, education, research, materials or information you would find useful in your practice?

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