

**Semester 1, 2017/2018**

## **Dementia Module Summary: Dementia and Everyday Ethics**

**MODULE TITLE: Dementia and Everyday Ethics**

**MODULE CODE: NS4027**

### **Course Summary**

This is a blended learning module involving 2 days of in-class education and 12 weeks of online learning. The module takes a person centered approach and covers a number of core ethical principles in working with people with dementia in a wide range of circumstances and contexts.

This module will equip students with the skills to recognise situations in everyday dementia care that are ethical in nature and how to guide colleagues in a helpful manner through a decision making process. It will also equip them with a practical and theoretical grounding in ethical decision making. There will be a wide range of topics covered including physical care and ethical situations arising. Social context and ethical issues concerning stigma and social isolation will also be central themes. Such issues will be explored from the perspective of the person with dementia, their family and communities in which these people live. The module will be predominantly scenario led, covering issues such as regarding, hydration and nutrition, continence, hygiene, responsive behaviours, pain, continence, sleep patterns and antipsychotic medication.

### **The learning objectives are;**

1. Recognise taken for granted situations which are nonetheless ethical in nature and require evaluation
2. Use theoretical principles to guide thinking about everyday situations in dementia care such as hydration, nutrition, pain, mobility/restraint, sleep problems, responsive behaviours, sexuality and future-care decisions.
3. Support family carers in recognising these situations and in working through the available options
4. Facilitate and support colleagues in their ethical decision making processes
5. Recognise the human rights of all people and how they are vulnerable in the case of dementia
6. Make a strong and theoretically supported argument for a line of action which is often the 'least damaging' but not perfect solution to complex problems.

Managers in participating sites must make a commitment to release staff for 2 study days and allow for some protected time each week for 12 weeks. Students will need regular access to the internet to complete the on-line part of the course.

The module is assessed by completion of a 3,000 word electronic learning portfolio with multimedia learning instances. The portfolio will cover six of the eight areas specified (hydration, nutrition, pain, mobility/restraint, sleep problems, responsive behaviours, sexuality and future care decisions). The evidence will include reflective accounts of care situations and of leading collegiate discussion.

The module is appropriate to anyone who has completed **NS466, Person centered dementia care module** or any other relevant module of study and excellent computer skills (Word, PowerPoint, email and social media – some training is provided but basic skills are assumed). Students must be working in regular contact with people with dementia for the whole period of the module. The module is open to all health and social care providers who are enthusiastic about improving their own skills in dementia care and the life of the people they work with.

## Course learning outcomes

On successful completions of this module, the student will be able to:

1. Through a rigorous clinical assessment process, recognise strengths in people with dementia and their family members and demonstrate an ability to activate those strengths in the face of challenges posed by dementia while showing compassion for the human struggles involved in living with dementia.
2. Apply psycho-social interventions that promote the well-being of people with dementia and their carers: these include validating people with dementia, building resilience, multi-sensory approaches and dyadic support of family members and people with dementia.
3. Critique the theoretical formulations of different approaches and show knowledge of when one may be superior over another in a given situation.
4. Evaluate different approaches to responding to dementia and assess the practical implications of each in an applied manner.
5. Support colleagues in integrating these approaches into everyday situations through role modelling and supporting reflective discussion.
6. Critique the broad range of methods of evaluating any approach chosen and apply a suitable evaluation strategy in a clinical case.

## **Course Schedule**

This module will be delivered part time across one semester in **Dublin City University** in Semester One 2017-2018 (Sept – Dec). There are two full day face to face workshops on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September and Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October from 10.00 am – 4.30pm each day.** (Provisional dates, subject to change)

## **Cost of module**

The cost is €426 for non HSE employees and free to HSE employees. Applicants must have the support of their manager on application.

## **Deadline for applications**

Completed applications including your CV, one passport size photo and a copy of your nursing registration (if you are a registered nurse) should be submitted to the Faculty of Science & Health by: **5.00pm, Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2017.**

## **To apply for an application form:**

**Phone:** Faculty of Science & Health: 01 700 8975  
**Email:** [science@dcu.ie](mailto:science@dcu.ie)  
**Web:** <http://www.dcu.ie/snhs/professional.shtml>

For further information on the module, please contact the co-ordinator, **Dr Louise Hopper, 01-7008540 or email [louise.hopper@dcu.ie](mailto:louise.hopper@dcu.ie)**