

Core Competences

Diagnostic skills

- Ability to recognize early signs of dementia
- Proficiency in performing cognitive assessment
- Proficiency in making the common differential diagnosis
- Ability in recognizing reversible causes
- Knowledge in disease staging and functional assessment

Treatment

- Knowledge in major classes of drugs used for cognitive symptoms of dementia
- Confidence in prescribing and monitoring for response and side effects

supporting caregivers

- Communication and counseling skills
- Recognition and management of caregiver stress
- Knowledge of community supporting services
- Referral and networking with community supporting services providers

ongoing medical care

- Knowledge of disease trajectory of common dementing illnesses
- Recognition of behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia
- Management of co-morbid medical conditions
- Skills in managing institutionalized dementia patients
- Knowledge of the relevant issues of mental capacity, advance directive, enduring power of attorney, guardianship, advance care planning, end-of-life care and life-sustaining treatments

Referral to specialists

- Uncertain diagnosis
- Atypical presentation
- Early onset dementia
- Rapidly progressive dementia
- Individuals with very high or low pre-morbid intellectual function
- Complex patients with multiple co-morbidities and disabilities

Capacity building



- Pre-registration education in dementia care in medical schools
- Post-graduate training in aged care and dementia care in ambulatory and institutional settings
- Networking between family doctors, community supporting services and specialists