



# Role of the Nurse...

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CCDHB





What is the role of the nurse?

No, really...

What *is* the role of the nurse?



“Caregiver”  
“provider of holistic care”  
“decision maker”  
“communicator”  
“manager of care”  
“patient advocate”  
“teacher”





# According to the International Council of Nurses:

"Nursing encompasses autonomous and collaborative care of individuals of all ages, families, groups and communities, sick or well and in all settings.

Nursing includes the promotion of health, prevention of illness, and the care of ill, disabled and dying people.

Advocacy, promotion of a safe environment, research, participation in shaping health policy and in patient and health systems management, and education are also key nursing roles."

But what do you actually *do*?

...anything &  
everything that isn't  
exclusively someone  
else's job



# Focus of this session

- Role of the Community Psychiatric Nurse (CPN) in the care of patients living with dementia in the community

- Home alone
- Home with someone
- Residential Aged Care Facility (RACF)



# Existing CPN Role

- Level of care assessment
- Nursing interventions
- Resource for Primary Care and colleagues in RACF's
- Family/carer support and education
- Teaching
  - Further Education
  - Healthcare



# Issues to consider...

- Demographic changes - “silver tsunami”
- Changing expectations
- Legal issues, EPOA, PPPR Act, MHA







# Who do we work with?

- People with behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia (any age)
- People with an unclear/complicated diagnosis of dementia
- People over 65years of age with a recent onset functional illness
- People with enduring mental health problems, over 65 years of age, whose needs now more appropriately sit with Older Person's services

# How is the service accessed?

- Referral through the Care Coordination Centre or Te Haika
- Be specific about presenting problems and expectations

# Areas for nursing development

- Regular support for RACFs
  - Nurse-led clinics
  - Collaborative care
- Non-pharmacological interventions
- Evolving role of the nurse in medicines management
  - Optimal treatment of co-morbidities vs. risks of polypharmacy
- Review of psychotropics
  - Support for safe, effective & appropriate prescribing
  - Evaluation of treatment benefit vs. treatment risk





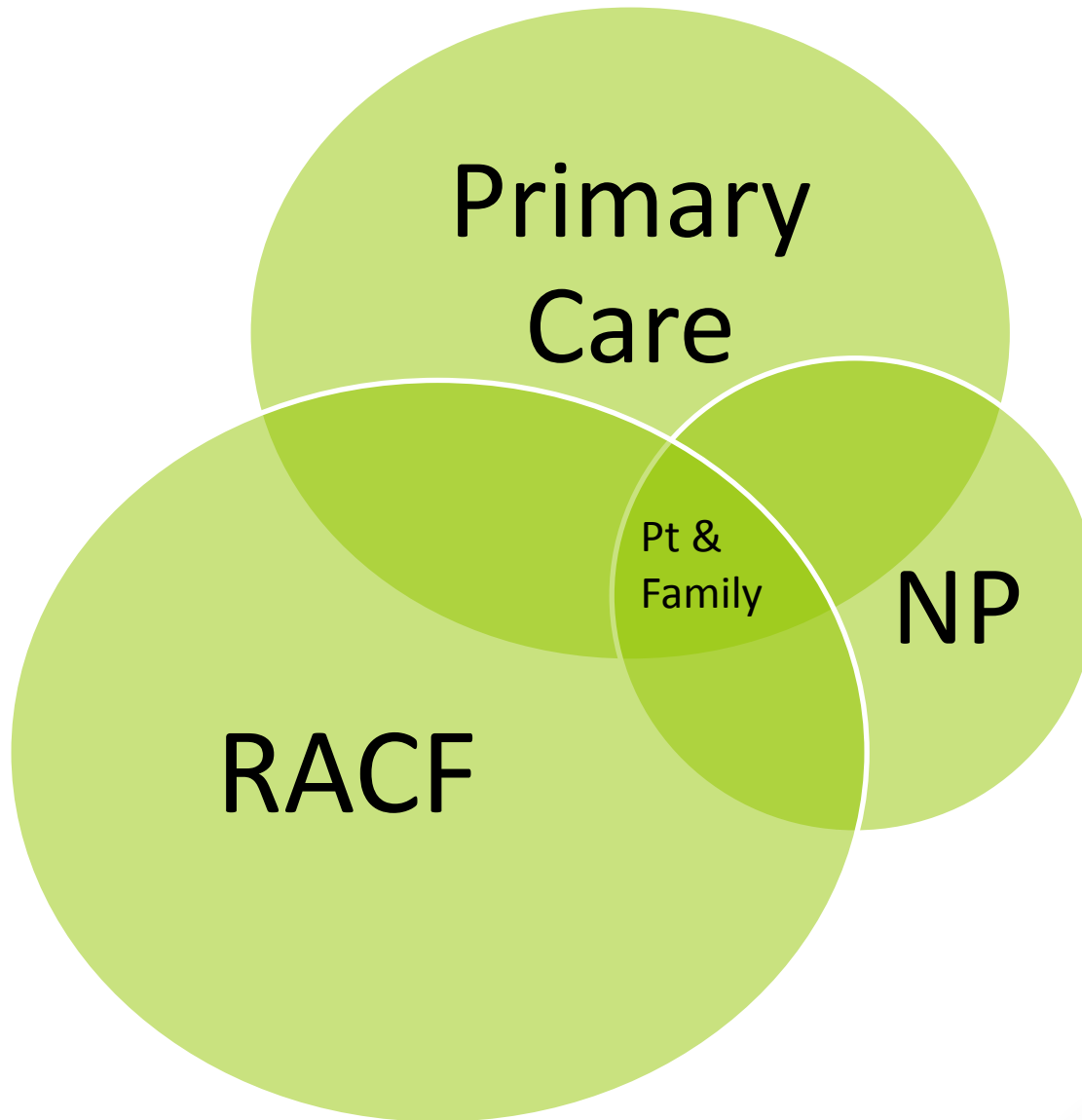
- De-prescribing of anti-psychotics
- Reporting ADE's & encouraging colleagues
- Education for colleagues in RACF's
  - BPSD / delirium
  - Psychotropic Meds
  - Mental Health & Aging



- Resource for primary care
  - Dementia Pathway
  - Impact of demographic changes on Primary Care



# What will it look like?



# Preparation for NP Role

- Registered Mental Nurse (UK)
- Diploma In Nursing
- Community Psychiatric Nurse Certificate
- BSc Community Health Care Nursing
- Masters degree in Health Science
- Extra papers in Pathophysiology, Clinical Assessment, Pharmacology, Therapeutics and a Prescribing Practicum (*gain Comprehensive RN registration in the process*)
- 4 years minimum experience (*30 years should do it...*)
- Develop business case
- Gain approval for NP Candidate position
- Present portfolio to Nursing Council NZ

# Paradigm shift

- Doctor's Handmaiden to Autonomous Practitioner



- Requires a change of mindset – hard to do!
  - E.g. “Drugs & Diagnoses are the Domain of Doctors”... But a key requirement of NPs is differential diagnoses...



# Resources

- University of Tasmania
  - Dementia MOOC
- Future Learn
  - E.g. Medicines Adherence
  - Science of Medicines
- NZ Formulary

UNDERSTANDING  
**DEMENTIA**

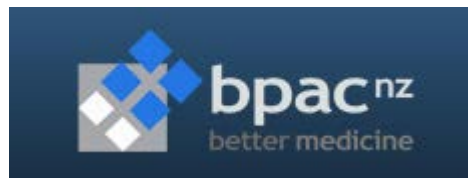
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FREE **ONLINE** COURSE

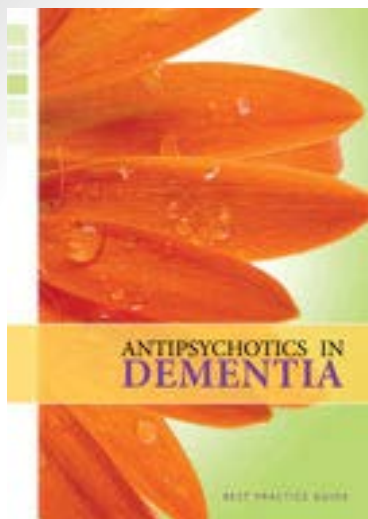


**Future  
Learn**





## Antipsychotics in dementia: Best Practice Guide



THE ROYAL  
AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND  
COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS

## The Use of Antipsychotics in Residential Aged Care