

Foundations of Practice and Beyond

Wednesday

Stream C

Session 6 0930

Session 7 1100



Peter Venus

I Can't lift the Plates; Dementia – A Moving and Handling Perspective

Biography

I am a Registered Mental Nurse (RMN) who on qualification specialised in nursing the Elderly Mentally Ill (EMI) initially within the NHS and then in the private sector in a variety of nursing homes in Cornwall until 1998. As one of those staff nurses who got “sent” on a “new fangled lifting course” and was then expected to train their colleagues I developed an interest in manual handling that eventually ended up with me providing training, initially for the nursing home I worked in and then the nursing group I worked for. After 12 years in Cornwall I returned to the North East and took up the post of Manual Handling Coordinator within the NHS in North Yorkshire. Those skills learnt whilst working and problem solving in the EMI setting continue to provide the basis for my whole approach to moving and handling.

Abstract

With an increasing number of elderly patients in all clinical and community settings it is becoming more and more common for care staff to find themselves looking after patients who present with dementias of one sort or another. This session is aimed at those staff who do not have a specific mental health background but who may be expected to look after patients who present with a wide range of symptoms associated with dementia. The session attempts to identify the more common types of dementia that care staff may encounter and highlight those symptoms most commonly associated with them. The session identifies how these symptoms can impact on the manual handling needs of an individual patient can not only inform the carers decision making process, but also help in providing safer systems of work for both the carer and the patient.