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Inpatient dementia mental health care in the UK: a national mapping survey of ward provision and family carer involvement

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https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/gps.70266

This is the Supplemental Material of the final output.

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Table 1. Ward, patient and carer-related characteristics of participating wards

National landscape: Inpatient dementia mental health wards identified in the UK			
Nation/provider	**Wards (n)**	**Beds (n)**	**Providers (n)**
England (NHS)	143	2315	52
Scotland (NHS)	29	446	11
Wales (NHS)	19	174	6
Northern Ireland (HSC)	7	42	5
Independent sector	11	142	6
Total	**209**	**3119**	**80**
Ward characteristics and staffing (n = 63 wards; 958 beds)			
Characteristic			**n (%)**
Ward type			
NHS wards			59 (93.7%)
Mixed-sex ward			50 (79.4%)
Dementia-specific ward			28 (44.4%)
Mixed older people's mental health ward			35 (55.6%)
Age policy			
Strict ≥ 65 age threshold			3 (4.8%)
≥ 65 as guideline (younger patients accepted under criteria)			23 (36.5%)
No fixed lower age limit			37 (58.7%)
Staffing			
Fully staffed on survey day			56 (88.9%)
Bank staff used			37 (58.7%)
At least one patient on one-to-one observation			44 (69.8%)
Patient characteristics (n = 801 patients)			
Characteristic			**n (%)**
Demographics			
Male			476/798 (59.6%)
Female			322/798 (40.4%)
At least one patient aged under 65 on ward			41/63 wards (65.1%)
At least one patient aged over 90 on ward			27/63 wards (42.9%)
Ethnicity			
White (British, Irish, or other)			750/801 (93.6%)
Asian or Asian British			22/801 (2.7%)
Black, African, Caribbean or Black British			13/801 (1.6%)
Other ethnic group			11/801 (1.4%)
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups			5/801 (0.6%)
Admission sources			
Admitted from own home			270/801 (33.7%)

Admitted from acute general hospital	191/801 (23.8%)
Admitted from residential care home	144/801 (18.0%)
Admitted from nursing home	143/801 (17.9%)
Discharge destinations (n = 831 reported destinations)	
Expected discharge to nursing home	413/831 (49.7%)
Expected discharge to residential care home	157/831 (18.9%)
Expected to return to own home	123/831 (14.8%)
Discharge destination uncertain	112/831 (13.5%)
Legal status and observation	
Informal (voluntary) admission	98/801 (12.2%)
Detained under Section 3, Mental Health Act 1983	349/801 (43.6%)
Detained under Section 2, Mental Health Act 1983	120/801 (15.0%)
On one-to-one or constant observation	113/801 (14.1%)
Wards with longest admission over 1 year	20/63 wards (31.7%)
Carer access and visiting (n = 63 wards)	
Characteristic	**n (%)**
Carers permitted to visit	62 (98.4%)
Flexible/open visiting policy	41 (65.1%)
Dedicated visitors' room available	45 (71.4%)
John's Campaign formally adopted	22 (34.9%)
Carer involvement and communication (n = 63 wards)	
Characteristic	**n (%)**
Formal involvement in care	
Carers involved in clinical decisions and discharge planning	63 (100%)
Carers routinely attend MDT meetings	35 (55.6%)
Care plans routinely shared with carers	44 (69.8%)
Confidentiality/information-sharing protocols in place	62 (98.4%)
Carer involvement documented in clinical record	62 (98.4%)
Communication methods	
Telephone and face-to-face contact	63 (100%)
Email	48 (76.2%)
Letters	40 (63.5%)
Text messaging	6 (9.5%)
Structured carer support and staff training (n = 63 wards)	
Characteristic	**n (%)**
Carer needs assessment conducted	46 (73.0%)
Signposting to external carer support services	61 (96.8%)
Carer support or peer group available on ward	35 (55.6%)
Staff training in carer engagement	28 (44.4%)

HSC = Health and Social Care Trust (Northern Ireland). MDT = multidisciplinary team. Bed totals are for the 197 wards with published bed numbers. Sex was reported for 798 of 801 patients. A further 28 patients (3.5%) were admitted from other specialist providers and 25 (3.1%) from other or unknown sources. Discharge destination percentages use the 831 expected destinations reported by wards (including ‘uncertain’; a further 3.0% were to other locations and 0.1% to hospice); some wards reported more destinations than patients.