

**THE
NATIONAL
COUNCIL FOR
PALLIATIVE
CARE**

Dementia and the Mental Capacity Act

**Alison Blight
Dementia Project Manager**

The National Council for Palliative Care
18 September 2007

a.blight@ncpc.org.uk

www.ncpc.org.uk

INTRODUCTION

- **Summarise key issues**
- **Describe NCPC's new dementia project**
- **Outline early findings**

KEY ISSUES

- **Increase in number of older people**
- **Number of people with dementia is very marked**

Year	Number
2006	683,597
2010	738,886
2050	1,700,000

Source: Alzheimer's Society, 2007

KEY ISSUES

- **Incidence of dementia increases with age**

Age	Prevalence
40 - 65	1 in 1000
65 - 70	1 in 14
70 - 79	1 in <i>(to be confirmed)</i>
80+	1 in 6

Source: Alzheimer's Society, 2007

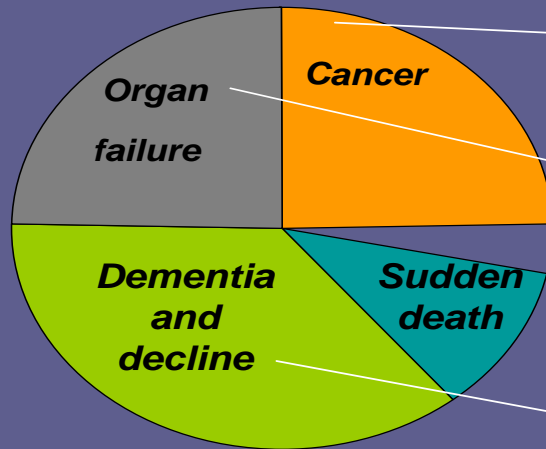
- **New national dementia strategy**

KEY ISSUES

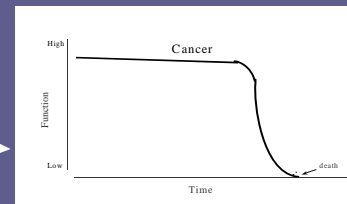
- **From GSF, GP will have 7/20 deaths due to dementia, frailty and decline**
- **Difficult disease trajectory**
- **Symptom control can be challenging**

KEY ISSUES

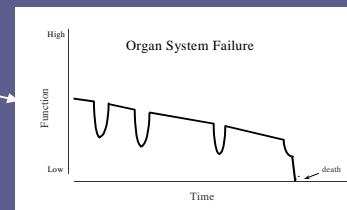
Illness trajectories



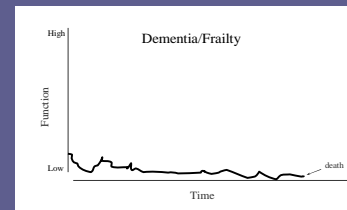
A



B



C



NCPC's NEW DEMENTIA PROJECT

- **NCPC's influential publication**
- **Two highly successful events**
- **Funding from Lloyds TSB Foundations to extend emerging work**

NCPC's NEW DEMENTIA PROJECT

- **Purpose**

- to promote increased and better quality palliative care for people with dementia

NCPC's NEW DEMENTIA PROJECT

- **Objectives**

- map current services
- highlight gaps
- understand user and carer needs
- identify and share notable practice
- develop practical guidance

EARLY FINDINGS

- **The organisation of palliative care for people with dementia is characterised by fragmentation**
- **Access to palliative care services is variable**

EARLY FINDINGS

- **There is evidence of inappropriate admission to acute hospitals**

EARLY FINDINGS

- **Some use of clinical frameworks and tools**
 - Primarily GSF
 - Pilots of pain assessment tools
 - Increased uptake of these tools would be helpful
- **Expertise, knowledge and skills in particular areas is developing**
 - Profile of this work has to be raised
 - Need to meet rising expectation of staff to deliver improved quality of care

CONCLUSION

- **Key issues**
- **NCPC's new dementia project**
- **Early findings**
- **Next stage – to explore further, evaluate and share!**