

## Managing dysphagia in people living with dementia

Developed in partnership with Toolwire, this tool is designed for pre-qualifying and newly qualified speech and language therapy learners who are working towards dysphagia competencies. In the tool, the learner plays the part of a newly qualified speech and language therapist (SLT) working with an adult with advanced dementia, managing dysphagia with supervision from an experienced SLT. Learners interact with real life characters as they undertake observations and assessments and apply research evidence, clinical guidelines and ethical frameworks to their management of a client. The learner works in collaboration with the service user, their family, and carers and with other members the team. Issues around managing eating and drinking in end of life care are explored.

The opportunity for experiential learning will enable the learner to apply skills and decision making in complex practice cases, integrating theories and practice. In replicating practice this tool provides an authentic and effective learning experience. It could be used for CPD provision, and has particular value within a blended learning context, it could also be stand alone or incorporated as a distance learning module.

The tool can be used by both qualified practitioners and university students as part of their studies. It will support skills development and understanding of dignity and respect when caring for individuals with dementia. Learners will experience an authentic and engaging learning environment that combines sound pedagogical principles with innovative technologies.

### Key Features

- Experiential learning
- Opportunity for learners to be involved in the construction of their own knowledge
- Frequent formative feedback from authentic interactions with colleagues and other professionals
- Guidance and feedback from an experienced colleague and senior nurse within the tool
- Built in remediation loops
- Ability to view key documents in the learning context
- Reflective learning is embedded throughout

### Learning Outcomes

- To gain an understanding of issues around caring for people with dementia who have eating, drinking and swallowing disorders
- To gain an understanding of current best practice in making decisions to manage dysphagia and dementia, protecting the individual's well-being
- To gain an insight into potentially difficult decisions in this area, and how a professional manages these sensitively
- To be able to identify and evaluate risks (eg of compromised chest health, nutrition/hydration, quality of life) that may present in individuals with advanced dementia and dysphagia
- To be able to apply relevant clinical guidelines, legislation and ethical frameworks to decision making
- To be able to develop an appropriate management plan, taking into account views of client/carers/MDT
- To be able to recognise the steps needed to promote optimal end of life care

### Price

The cost per individual learner is £125. For groups of learners or bespoke package prices please contact us at [virtuallearning@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:virtuallearning@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

For more information please visit: [www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/virtuallearning](http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/virtuallearning) or email [virtuallearning@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:virtuallearning@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)