

Services for Persons with Memory Disorders

in Finnish Municipalities - Analysis of the Old Age Strategies

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Background

The Department of Nursing Science at the University of Turku is taking part in an EU -project RightTime-PlaceCare which will develop the scientific evidence that supports the Member States to organize their dementia health care.

Purpose

To analyze how Finnish municipalities' old-age strategies take into account the recognition, treatment and care of memory disorders and the actions for maintaining cognitive functions.

To analyze how the treatment and care of persons with moderate and severe memory disorders was taken into account in the old-age strategies

Methods

N = 40 municipalities' old-age strategies around Finland

Data was selected using stratified sampling so that the selected municipalities correlated with the Finnish population.

Data was analyzed with deductive content analysis.

Results

n = 34 strategies included service descriptions for persons with memory disorders.

Recognizing memory disorders was named to be every health professionals' task but only few municipalities had actions for professionals' education about memory disorders. Treatment and care were mostly concentrated to the memory clinics and especially for memory nurses.

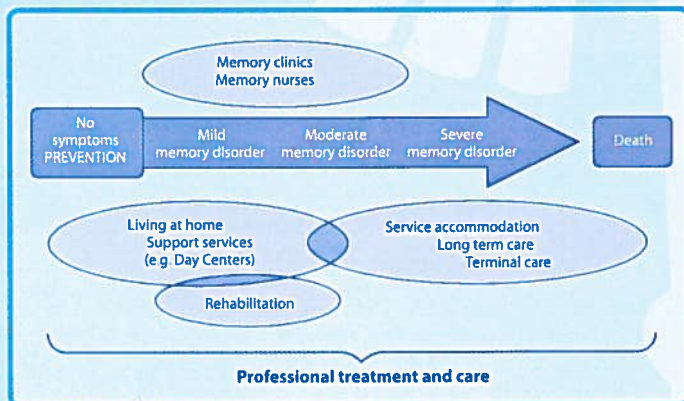
Rehabilitation was organized mostly in day centers specialized to memory disorders.

Most of the municipalities did offer service accommodation or long term care especially for persons with moderate or severe memory disorders.

Conclusions

Finnish municipalities should focus more on **preventing** memory disorders and **supporting home care** for persons with memory disorders.

Professionalism in every aspect of care and services should also be supported to meet the needs of persons with memory disorders for best possible treatment.



Recognition, treatment and care of persons with memory disorders