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Title  
Home care and services of people with dementia in Finland

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Aim  
To describe care and services for people with dementia in Finnish health care system from home care perspective.

Background  
Memory problems among older people are increasing worldwide. In Finland, there is more than 120 000 people fulfilling the dementia criteria and out of them 85 000 have moderate or severe dementia. New cases with memory impairments are estimated to be 13 000 per year. The Finnish care policy has shifted towards home care allowing older person to live at home as long as possible.

Methods and materials  
The primary source of information was all available reports of Finnish health care system in the field of older people and memory disorder care. Additional data sources were official documents, interviews with managers, providers, staff and employees in older people care, official statistics, epidemiological studies and literature reviews.

Results  
There are several home care services for people with dementia, such as home nursing care, a housing adaptation service, meal service, personal safety alarm, leisure activities, and rehabilitation services at home. Most of the services are available for all people with dementia despite the severity of cognitive impairment. However, some services are available only for certain stage of dementia based of needs assessment.

Conclusion  
The amount of people with dementia will increase posing challenges for the Finnish home care system. There is a need to develop care and services targeted to people with cognitive impairment to respond to the growing needs in the future.