



CONSENT FORM

Project title: Effect of a continuing education course about dementia for rehabilitation professionals on learner knowledge, attitudes, and confidence: a pre-post study

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Introduction

You are invited to take part in a research study being conducted by Dr. Caitlin McArthur, a researcher in the School of Physiotherapy at Dalhousie University. Choosing whether or not to take part in this research is entirely your choice. There will be no impact on you if you decide not to participate in the research. The information below tells you about what is involved in the research, what you will be asked to do and about any benefit, risk, inconvenience or discomfort that you might experience.

You should discuss any questions you have about this study with Nazanin Nasiri. Please ask as many questions as you like and if you have questions later, please contact Nazanin.

Purpose and Outline of the Research Study

1. Individuals living with dementia have unique strengths and needs which need to be considered when designing rehabilitation interventions. Care Approaches in Rehabilitation for Effective Support for Dementia (CARES-D) is a post-graduate course for rehabilitation professionals that fills the gap in education in working with people living with dementia. This course summarizes key approaches to effectively support caregivers and individuals with dementia in participating in rehabilitation interventions. The modules in this course use evidence-based information on key topic areas identified as barriers to working with individuals with dementia from a rehabilitation perspective. The modules include background information about dementia, communication and cognitive strategies, effective physical rehabilitation and interprofessional approaches for improving and maintaining function, safety and mobility considerations, and care partner support strategies for rehabilitation interventions. Working with individuals with dementia requires special knowledge and understanding of the disease. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to examine the effect of CARES-D for physiotherapists, occupational

therapists, physiotherapy assistants, occupational therapy assistants, and kinesiologists on learner knowledge, attitudes, and confidence of dementia. We will administer online questionnaires with practicing physiotherapists, occupational therapists, physiotherapy assistants, occupational therapy assistants, and kinesiologists in Canada who work with individuals with dementia to: 1) Assess changes in rehabilitation professionals' knowledge about dementia; 2) Evaluate shifts in attitudes toward individuals with dementia; 3) Measure improvements in confidence in managing dementia care; 4) Gather participant feedback on the CARES-D training program; 5) Compare pre- and post-training outcomes to determine the program's effectiveness.

Who Can Take Part in the Research Study?

You may participate in this study if the following criteria apply to you:

- A practicing physiotherapist, occupational therapist, physiotherapy assistant, occupational assistant, or kinesiologist with a minimum of 6 months of practice experience
- Practicing in Canada
- Work with individuals with dementia
- Work in any setting (i.e. long-term care, acute care, private practice, etc.)
- Fluent in English

What You Will Be Asked to Do

If you decide to participate in this research, you will be asked to complete an online course. The course will take approximately six and a half hours to complete. During the course you will be asked to review course material, complete knowledge checks, utilize the course workbook and submit an online course completion survey. You will also be asked to complete four online questionnaires before taking the CARES-D course and three online questionnaires after course completion. The questionnaires will take approximately one hour to complete. During the questionnaires you will be asked to respond to questions about your demographics, and knowledge, attitudes and confidence in dementia. The total estimated time for your participation in this research is seven and a half hours.

Possible Benefits, Risks and Discomforts

Benefits: Participating in the study might enrich your understanding of dementia management in rehabilitation. The study might not benefit you, however, the research might contribute to new knowledge on continuing education in dementia management for rehabilitation professionals. The researchers do not stand to benefit financially from this study.

Risks: The risks associated with this study are minimal; the harms and discomforts are no greater than what an average person would experience in everyday life. You will be given the opportunity to take breaks throughout the course to reduce these risks. You do not have to answer questions that you do not want to answer by selecting prefer not to answer or by skipping the question. While it is possible that your personal information and responses may be harmed if a data breach occurs. We have taken the following steps to mitigate this risk by storing data in a password protected folder only accessible by the research team. By agreeing to participate in this research, you are not giving up or waiving any legal rights in the event that you are harmed during this study.

Incentives / Reimbursement

To thank you for your time, you will receive a \$15 Amazon gift card following the completion of all study components (CARES-D course, course completion survey, and pre-post questionnaires). If you withdraw participation before completing all study component, you will

receive a pro-rated gift card based on the portion of the study completed. Completing the pre-course questionnaires corresponds to 30% of the study, resulting in a \$5 gift card, and completing all components corresponds to 100% resulting in receiving a \$15 gift card.

How Your Information Will Be Protected

Privacy: Your participation in this research will be known only to the principal investigator and research assistants of the research team. All information will be stored and only accessible to research team members within a secure, password protected folder in Microsoft SharePoint on encrypted Dalhousie servers.

Confidentiality: The information that you provide to us will be kept confidential. Only the principal investigator and research assistants involved in the study will have access to this information. Our research team has an obligation to keep all research information confidential. All your identifying information (such as your name and contact information) will be securely stored separately from your research information. We will de-identify your responses after the pre and post study questionnaires are matched. We will use a participant number (not your name) in our written and computer records so that the research information we have about you does not contain personal information. During the study, all electronic records will be kept secure in a secure password protected folder within Microsoft SharePoint on encrypted Dalhousie servers. We will describe and share our findings in journals, presentations, public media, and journal articles. We will only report group results and not individual results. This means that you will not be identified in any way in our reports.

Limits to confidentiality: We will not disclose any information about your participation in this research unless compelled to do so by law. That is, in the unlikely event that we suspect abuse or neglect of an adult in need of protection, we are required to contact authorities.

Data retention: Once the study is over your data will be deconstructed.

If You Decide to Stop Participating

You are free to leave the study at any time. If you decide to stop participating during the study, you can decide whether you want any of the information that you have provided up to that point to be removed or if you will allow us to use that information. After participating in the study, you can decide for up to four months if you want us to remove your data. After that time, it will become impossible for us to remove your data because it will already be de-identified

How to Obtain Results

You will be offered the chance to receive a short description of group results when the study is finished. No individual results will be provided. You can obtain these results by including your contact information at the end of the signature page.

Questions

We are happy to talk with you about any questions or concerns you may have about your participation in this research study. Please contact Nazanin Nasiri at 3F.ResearchGroup@dal.ca, or 902 431-5357, at any time with questions, comments, or concerns about the research study (if you are calling long distance, please call collect).

If you have any ethical concerns about your participation in this research, you may also contact Research Ethics, Dalhousie University at (902) 494-3423, or email: ethics@dal.ca (and reference REB file # 2024-7525).”

Signature Page

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Lead Researcher: Dr. Caitlin McArthur, Dalhousie University, caitlin.mcarthur@dal.ca

I have read the explanation about this study. I have been given the opportunity to discuss it and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I understand that I have been asked to take part in an online course, course completion survey, and four pre-course and three post-course questionnaires in a timeframe that is acceptable to me. I agree to take part in this study. My participation is voluntary, and I understand that I am free to withdraw from the study at any time, until the submission of the post-course questionnaires is completed.

Name

Signature

Date

Please provide an email address below if you would like to be sent a summary of the study results.

Email address: _____