

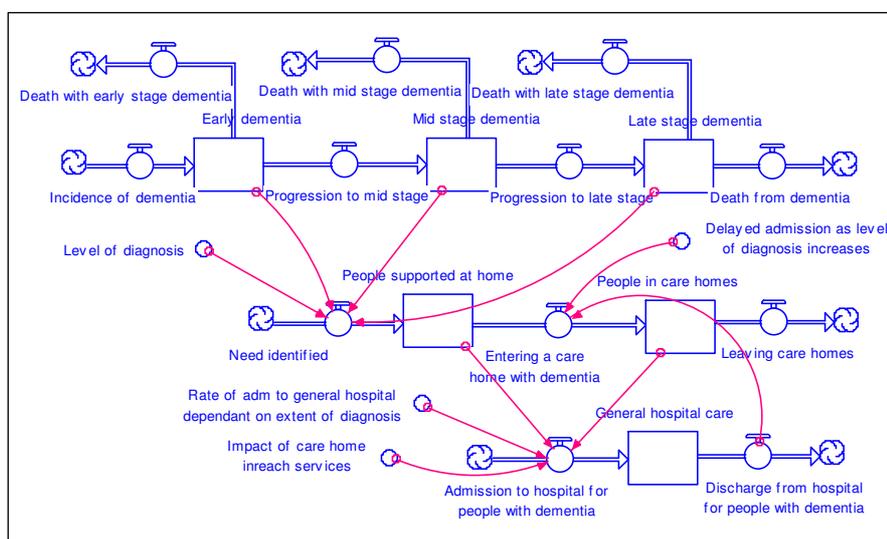
National Dementia Strategy (NDS) Implementation Simulator



What is the NDS Implementation Simulator & who is it for?

It is a whole systems model that has been built to reflect the way in which the implementation of the National Dementia Strategy impacts across the health and social care system. It builds from a population baseline using local demographic data for the incidence and prevalence of dementia. The simulator is designed for strategic commissioning managers across health and social care who want to use it as a learning environment for the engagement of local partners in taking forward the strategy locally.

How does it work?



The simulator is based on a set of relationships within the health and care system that link the impact of rising dementia prevalence to services and therefore to the use of resources. Implementation options for the NDS are used as 'levers' to explore their impact in a way that is consistent with local needs and services. A simplified representation of this system is shown opposite.

The key relationships reflected in the simulator are:

1. The impact of rising levels of diagnosis on the capacity requirements of a Memory Assessment Service.
2. The benefits of early diagnosis on delayed entry to care homes and the likelihood of a hospital admission, as well as the consequence for professional and family carers.
3. The contribution that liaison psychiatry and other specialist mental health services can make to the wider system, including reducing general hospital admissions and capacity requirements.
4. The contribution that cares home in-reach services can make alongside other services to minimise hospital admission and improve quality of care.

The simulator takes these relationships to create a dynamic environment that tracks resource utilisation, capacity and performance outputs over time. The simulator takes account of the assumptions and performance indicators suggested within the DH Commissioning Toolkit and other national sources. It also incorporates the impact of the NICE technology appraisal guidance for Alzheimer's drugs.

You can explore a generic version of the Model for yourself on Whole Systems Partnership's website where you will also find more information about our other products and our work to support health and social care transformation.

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How has it been developed?

The simulator was originally developed based on work with two local health and social care partnerships and has subsequently been enhanced with learning from a number of local calibrations and national developments. WSP have now used the simulator in 11 localities and are therefore building up both a range of examples and some useful comparative information about NDS implementation.

Current localities are part of a learning network supported by an online toolkit that facilitates sharing of good practice and comparison of local metrics. These are all informed by the expectations of national policy and commissioning guidance. A member of the network has recently commented:

'I have learnt that though there may be shared problems there are different approaches and more than one commissioning solution' Sheffield City Council

What would be involved in adopting the simulator locally

The simulator needs to be used in the context of partnership working across health and social care in the delivery of the National Dementia Strategy. It can be used irrespective of the stage of implementation and has been beneficial in the context of early and later stages. This is because the engagement process that is undertaken secures the local intelligence necessary to align the simulator to local information and intelligence about progress, as well as aspirations for the future. The process entails:

1. The collection of local information and intelligence about NDS implementation including access to key people for initial one-to-one discussion or interview.
2. An engagement event involving all key partners to brief them on the development and use of the simulator and to gain consensus about local priorities.
3. The population and calibration of the simulator to the local area using the local information and intelligence gathered;
4. A second engagement event at which the preliminary findings of the simulator are shared and debated.
5. The preparation of a report, including data outputs and presentation material, which will enable ongoing use of the findings from the simulator.

Following the successful completion of the calibration exercise a local representative will be invited to join the online learning network, thus having access to other locations that have undergone a similar exercise as well as anonymised benchmarking data about progress in implementation. This network is facilitated through telephone conference calls, normally every three months.

What does it cost?

The cost of the initial calibration process, including one year's membership of the network, is £15,000 +VAT, plus any expenses incurred. On the anniversary of the completion of the calibration you will be invited to renew membership of the network. Were there to be an enhanced version of the simulator available and a requirement to update a local calibration including attendance at a further local engagement event to present the update, then the network renewal would cost £5,000 +VAT, plus expenses. If a new version is not available or there is a local decision not to take the updated version the network fee for the following year would be £1,000 + VAT.

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