

Smartphone app assisting professional care workers

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Description: The app "About Dementia" is an observation tool for caregivers. By using the app, the professional care worker can learn how to identify symptoms in people with dementia and how to respond to changes in the physical condition of a person with dementia. The Danish language app is comprised of 4 parts: Observation wheel: Guidelines for observing changes in the physical condition in people with dementia. E.g. loss of appetite, change in mood or change in appearance can be indicators of physical illness or an indication that more help is needed. Quiz: The user can test his knowledge about physical symptoms in people with dementia. Tips: Advice on communicating with the person with dementia and the relatives/caregivers. Glossary: Explanation of terms related to the field of dementia. Target group: We found a need in Denmark for educational materials targeted dementia nurses, social and health care assistants and other healthcare professionals. Many professional care workers in Denmark already use a PDA or a smartphone in their daily work for administrative registration of services, and some hospitals and nursing homes still do not offer WIFI. Format: An app - that also works offline - offers easy access and flexibility, which is much needed in the training and education of professional dementia care workers. Choosing the app format, we offer a new way of spreading knowledge and providing training tailored to the needs of our target groups. The app format supports the Danish Dementia Research Centre's educational seminars and conferences, our website and e-learning as a mean of spreading knowledge about dementia. Downloads: The app "About Dementia" was released in May 2012 and has been downloaded 13.400 times as of January 2014. In comparison approximately 5.000 people attended a seminar or a conference arranged by the Danish Dementia Research Centre in the same time period. The app has received positive feedback in Google Play and AppStore, but more qualitative evaluation is needed in order to validate the usefulness of the app.