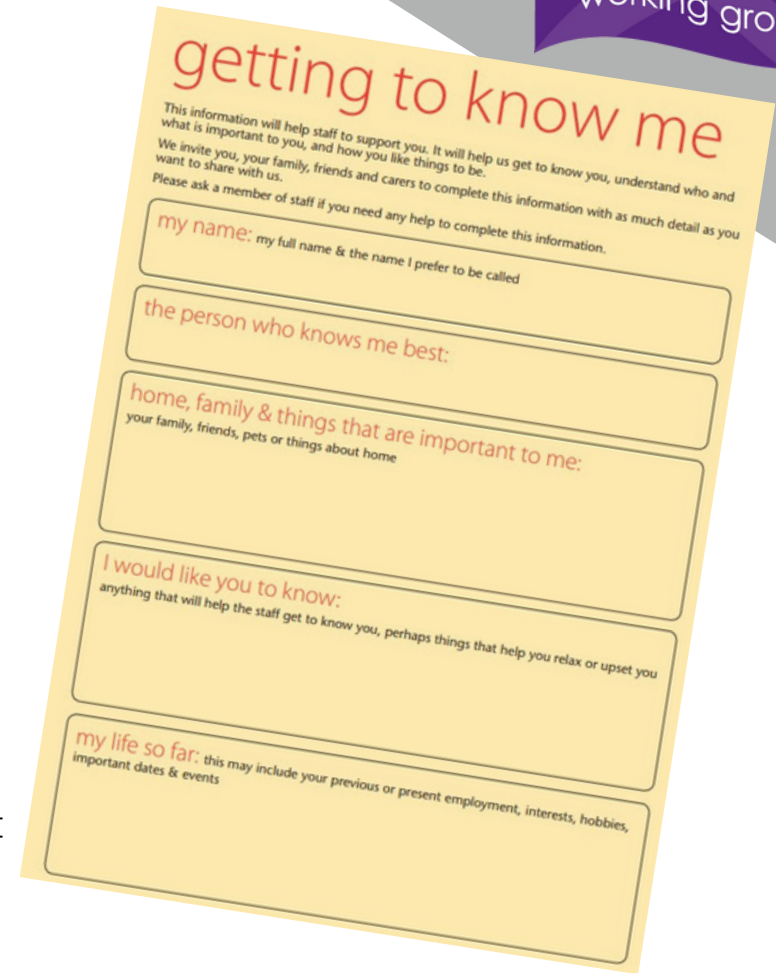


Getting to Know Me

Getting To Know Me is an important document which aims to give hospital staff a better understanding of patients with dementia who are admitted either for planned treatment or in an emergency. The document was developed by Alzheimer Scotland's Dementia Nurse Consultants (ASDNC) and the Scottish Government with the intention that it should be filled in by the person with dementia as much as possible, or by a family carer or relative, with the help of hospital staff if necessary. It should then be held with the person's notes so it is readily accessible to all staff working with that individual.

The document was first introduced in 2013, so the ASDNCs are taking the opportunity of its tenth anniversary to review whether it remains fit for purpose and meeting the needs of those it was designed for.

The review is being carried out in conjunction with the Royal National Institute of Blind People and, as well as a survey of staff, involves consultation with users of the document, including the Scottish Dementia Working Group (SDWG) and the National Dementia Carers Action Network (NDCAN).



Getting to Know Me

SDWG and NDCAN members were pleased to have the opportunity of meeting Dementia Nurse Consultants in April to discuss their experience of using the document; its format; and to explore whether any changes can be made to make it more user friendly and effective. Members enjoyed wide ranging discussions and there was an overwhelming feeling that whilst the document remains important and it helped on initial admission to hospital, it did not always impact upon the care received following transfer to another ward. A good range of views were expressed regarding how Getting To Know Me is used to support care provision in hospital.



SDWG & NDCAN members

Overall there was a feeling that the document is person-centred and various suggestions were made around how it might be changed to make it more user friendly, including the ability to rank each question in terms of importance to the individual, whether low, medium or high. There was also a feeling that a statement could be added regarding the release of information from the document, so as to ensure that it travels with the person during their hospital journey.

SDWG and NDCAN members look forward to hearing more about the review and to promoting the continued use of this important document in the future.