

Dementia Care Knowledge and Experiences of Family Carers in Thai General Hospitals

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KEY MESSAGE: Significant variability in dementia-friendly practices across Thai hospitals highlights the need for system-level reforms and a national dementia care strategy that standardises hospital care and formally includes family carers.

INTRODUCTION

Dementia-friendly hospital care is an emerging priority in Thailand as the population ages (1). However, family carers’ perspectives—particularly on often fragmented hospital care processes and limited dementia-specific support (2) — remain underexplored

METHODS

- Multi-centre, cross-sectional
- 136 family carers** of older adults with dementia admitted to acute hospitals for at least 2 days
- Dementia knowledge assessment scale-Thai (**DKAS-Thai**) (3)
- Hospital dementia care, guided by DEMENTIA CARE pointers (4)
- Descriptive stats, ANOVA

RESULTS



Mean age **54.3 yrs**

79.4% Female

- 42.6% Daughter
- 14.7% Wife

15.4% left job to take caring role

Caregiving role for **2 Years** (median)

35.3% alone carers

Mean DKAS-Thai **22.6/50**

(SD=7.0)
moderate level, not vary across demographics

Strengths: High Family Engagement



- 86.8% Inclusion in Clinical Decisions**
Carers are consistently treated as partners in the decision-making process during hospitalisation.
- 83.8% Participation in Daily Care**
Families are actively encouraged to assist with hygiene, feeding, and hydration.
- 75.7% Regular Health Updates**
Hospital staff succeed in providing transparent, frequent status updates regarding the patient’s condition.

Gaps: Inconsistent Structured Protocols



- 47.1% Lack Standardised Identification**
Nearly half of hospitals lack formal protocols to identify dementia patients upon admission.
- 45.6% Poor Discharge Communication**
Critical care plans are frequently not shared with community providers or residential facilities.
- 40.4% Missing Advance Care Planning**
Discussions regarding end-of life care and long-term preferences remain a significant clinical gap.

CONCLUSIONS

Family carers in Thai university hospitals report variable, often limited dementia-friendly practices, underscoring the need for standardised, carer-inclusive approaches to hospital dementia care.

References

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