

PRESCRIBING MEMANTINE IN GENERAL PRACTICE IN ENGLAND: A SURVEY AND INTERVIEW STUDY

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE 1: SURVEY RESULTS

GP & PRACTICE DETAILS

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative
Q2 Gender			
Male	50	48.08	48.08
Female	51	49.04	97.12
Prefer not to say	3	2.88	100.00
Total	104	100.00	
Q3 Years as GP			
0-4	12	11.54	11.54
5-9	24	23.08	34.62
10-14	23	22.12	56.73
15-19	13	12.50	69.23
20-24	12	11.54	80.77
25+	20	19.23	100.00
Total	104	100.00	
Q4 Number of sessions per week			
1-2	9	8.65	8.65
3-4	23	22.12	30.77
5-7	53	50.96	81.73
8+	16	15.38	97.12
Total	104	100.00	
Q5 Locum			
No	78	75.00	75.00
Yes	26	25.00	100.00
Total	104	100.00	
Q6 Specialist interest in dementia			
No	73	70.19	70.19
Yes	31	29.81	100.00
Total	104	100.00	
Q7 Region			
SW England	26	25.00	25.00
East Midlands	4	3.85	28.85
East of England	10	9.62	38.46
London	20	19.23	57.69
NE England	2	1.92	59.62
NW England	21	20.19	79.81
SE England	9	8.65	88.46
West Midlands	4	3.85	92.31
Yorkshire	7	6.73	99.04
Total	104	100.00	

Q8 Number of GPs in practice			
1-5	20	19.23	19.23
6-10	49	47.12	66.35
11-15	25	24.04	90.38
16-20	2	1.92	92.31
21-25	4	3.85	96.15
26-30	3	2.88	99.04
Total	104	100.00	

GP CONFIDENCE (HOW CONFIDENT ARE YOU..?)

Q9 Developing a care plan for patients with mild AD?			
Very confident	22	21.15	21.15
Confident	31	29.81	50.96
Moderately confident	36	34.62	85.58
Somewhat unconfident	11	10.58	96.15
Unconfident	3	2.88	99.04
Total	104	100.00	

Q10 Developing a care plan for patients with moderate to severe AD?			
Very confident	19	18.27	18.27
Confident	25	24.04	42.31
Moderately confident	38	36.54	78.85
Somewhat unconfident	13	12.50	91.35
Unconfident	8	7.69	99.04
Total	104	100.00	

Q11 Deciding whether a person with AD is at the moderate or severe stage of the disease?			
Very confident	14	13.46	13.46
Confident	27	25.96	39.42
Moderately confident	41	39.42	78.85
Somewhat unconfident	20	19.23	98.08
Unconfident	1	0.96	99.04
Total	104	100.00	

GP EXPERIENCE (HOW FREQUENTLY HAVE YOU..?)

Q12 Conducted an annual review with a patient with moderate to severe AD?			
Never	7	6.73	6.73
Rarely	15	14.42	21.15
Occasionally	38	36.54	57.69
Regularly	43	41.35	99.04
Total	104	100.00	

Q13 Initiated a prescription for memantine for a patient with moderate to severe AD?			
Never	58	55.77	55.77
Rarely	16	15.38	71.15
Occasionally	14	13.46	84.62
Regularly	15	14.42	99.04
Total	104	100.00	
Q14 Continued a prescription for memantine for a patient with moderate to severe AD?			
Never	3	2.88	2.88
Rarely	8	7.69	10.58
Occasionally	26	25.00	35.58
Regularly	66	63.46	99.04
Total	104	100.00	
Q15 Referred a patient with moderate to severe AD to a specialist?			
Never	2	1.92	1.92
Rarely	10	9.62	11.54
Occasionally	43	41.35	52.88
Regularly	48	46.15	99.04
Total	104	100.00	

GP ACCESS TO SPECIALIST ADVICE

Q16 Do you have access to a specialist for advice with respect to caring for patients with moderate to severe AD?			
Yes, a specialist within my practice	11	10.58	10.58
Yes, a local specialist within primary care	10	9.62	20.19
Yes, a local specialist in secondary care	72	69.23	89.42
No, I have no access to specialist advice	6	5.77	95.19
Other*	4	3.85	99.04
Total	104	100.00	

***Other:** Frailty team, mental health team; I lead the frailty service, so people may discuss patients with myself / the frailty team. We have local access to the CMHT (Community Mental Health Team) but they have staffing issues and often do not have a consultant; I am a GPwER (GP with Extended Role) dementia and work in MAS (Memory Assessment Service); Older people's mental health team.

GP KNOWLEDGE

Q18 Are you aware that NICE guideline NG97 recommends that memantine for moderate to severe AD can be initiated in primary care?			
No	48	46.15	46.15
Yes	55	52.88	99.04
Total	104	100.00	

**TOPIC GUIDE FOR MEMANTINE INTERVIEWS
PRESCRIBING MEMANTINE IN GENERAL PRACTICE IN ENGLAND**

Researcher: Dr Mary Carter

Question & prompt
<p>1. What is your experience of caring and prescribing for patients with AD?</p> <p><i>PROMPT</i></p> <p><i>Explore challenges, differences between mild/moderate/severe AD, any special interest in dementia</i></p>
<p>2. Are you confident about deciding whether a patient has mild, moderate or severe AD?</p> <p><i>PROMPT</i></p> <p><i>Do GPs and carers/patients have a shared definition of mild/moderate/severe? What might help you with identifying the severity of AD? Are the existing tools (MMSE, GPCOG etc.) helpful?</i></p>
<p>3. How difficult/easy is giving news of a possible AD diagnosis to patients and families?</p> <p><i>PROMPT</i></p> <p><i>Are you able to signpost patient/family to other sources of help so that they can make informed decisions? Are carers registered?</i></p>
<p>4. How often do you review patients with AD?</p> <p><i>PROMPT</i></p> <p><i>Do you think this is enough? Do you review carers?</i></p>
<p>5. What is your experience of prescribing memantine for moderate to severe AD?</p> <p><i>PROMPT</i></p> <p><i>Explore reasons for prescribing/not prescribing, eg time, cost, role of GP and specialist services, efficacy/safety/tolerability of memantine, prescribing memantine alone/in combination with cholinesterase inhibitors, other medications, do you discuss medications routinely with patients/carers?</i></p>
<p>6. How has your prescribing practice been impacted by NICE guidance NG97 about prescribing memantine in general practice for moderate to severe AD?</p> <p><i>PROMPT</i></p> <p><i>Are you restricted by guidance from the local formulary? Explore awareness of current NICE guidance</i></p>
<p>7. What types of support or training could assist your care/prescribing for patients with moderate to severe AD?</p> <p><i>PROMPT</i></p> <p><i>Access to advice; sources of information; guidelines, training topics and formats</i></p>
<p>8. How does your existing relationship with a patient affect your decision-making in respect of AD?</p> <p><i>PROMPT</i></p> <p><i>Continuity of care with patient/family; no family support, mild/moderate/severe AD</i></p>

9. In your experience, how is shared decision making impacted by AD?

PROMPT

Differences according to severity (mild, moderate, severe); involving the patient's carer, capacity issues

10. How does your working environment affect your care/prescribing for patients with moderate to severe AD?

PROMPT

Time, availability of (double) appointments, practice culture, support from specialists within and outside practice (nb PCN), access to training, possibility of dedicated dementia clinics

11. Do you have any other comments about caring/prescribing for patients with moderate to severe AD?