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Cognitive Stimulation Therapy

Patient Information Leaflet

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What if I have a comment, suggestion, compliment or complaint about the service?

If you want to make a comment, suggestion, compliment or complaint you can:

- talk to the people directly involved in your care
- ask a member of staff for a feedback form, or complete a form on the Trust website www.ntw.nhs.uk (click on the 'Contact Us' tab)
- telephone the Complaints Department Tel: 0191 245 6672
- email complaints@ntw.nhs.uk Please note that information sent to the Trust via email is sent at your own risk
- We are always looking at ways to improve services. Your feedback allows us to monitor the quality of our services and act upon issues that you bring to our attention.
You can provide feedback in the following ways:
 - the quickest way for you to do this is to complete our short online survey at www.ntw.nhs.uk/poy
 - complete a Points of You survey, available on wards, reception areas or from staff.
 - some areas of the Trust have electronic feedback touch screens, staff can help you to use these.

What is Cognitive Stimulation Therapy (CST)?

Cognitive skills can be described as 'thinking skills' and cognition is a word used to describe thought processes.

Cognitive Stimulation Therapy is a brief group treatment for people experiencing mild to moderate memory difficulties. We aim to make group sessions fun and enjoyable.

How can Cognitive Stimulation Therapy help me?

You could benefit from improvement in memory, thinking skills and quality of life.

You may also find that you grow in confidence and develop friendships with other members of the group.

If you find that you do not enjoy the group then your group leader will discuss this with you.

Why have I been approached?

Cognitive Stimulation Therapy is suitable for people who have mild/moderate memory impairment who are able to communicate within a group.

What happens next?

Before you start therapy you will work with a nurse on a number of baseline assessments such as your memory, mood and functioning.

Following completion of therapy the assessment will be repeated to find out if any benefits have been noticed by yourself or your family.

The assessments will be carried out on a one to one basis with a nurse, who will support you to feel as comfortable as possible during these assessments.

How long does the treatment last?

The treatment involves 14 sessions of themed activities such as

- Sound
- Childhood
- Food
- Current affairs
- Faces/scenes
- Word association
- Being creative
- Categorising objects
- Orientation
- Using money

During the sessions, participants take part in a number of fun activities such as word games, number games, gentle physical games and singing, as well as discussion of the theme. To facilitate the sessions staff may introduce the use of props such as a whiteboard, a soft ball, a map or fresh food.

The sessions will be held at the Castleside Day Unit or the Memory Assessment and Management Service (MAMS), will last approximately 45 minutes and be run by two staff members.

Do I still take any medication prescribed to help my memory?

Yes, Cognitive Stimulation Therapy is recommended regardless of medication taken. It is important that the therapy is used to compliment any prescribed medication.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) recognise that the use of Cognitive stimulation therapy can be beneficial in those with mild/moderate memory impairment.

References

- Dementia: Supporting people with dementia and their carers in health & Social Care, Clinical guideline CG42 National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (November 2006)
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