

Integrated care strategy for older people living alone with dementia including their families and neighbors: Literature Review

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Background

The number of older people living alone with dementia (OWD) is increasing due to population aging. For OWD to continue living in the community, the cooperation of their families and neighbors is important and necessary to develop integrated care strategies for the scope of care.

Aim of the study

To clarify, through a literature review, the integrated care strategies developed by home care professionals for OWD, which included their families and neighbors.

Methods

We searched the Japan Medical Abstracts Society website, for case reports on support by homecare professionals for OWD who lived in the community, and selected reports that described the assessment, perceptions, and professional care goals. We found 32 cases and selected five articles. The care strategies were extracted and grouped based on situations where there were differences in the thoughts and intentions between the OWD and their neighbors or families. Data were qualitatively and inductively analyzed.

Results

We took 12 care strategies from 12 situations and aggregated them into six categories, which included “alleviated the behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD) in OWDs through psychological stabilization, and reduced mental stress and anxiety via mental support for residents affected by BPSD,” and “held community care meetings to discuss care systems for OWD, and promoted understanding of dementia among neighborhood residents.”

Conclusions and implications

Professionals care strategies included creating collaborators for the OWD in the community and creating care systems with community members. Considering the results, we suggest developing a practical care guide for community health nurses.