



Introduction

Although facilitators and barriers to pain assessment and management have been explored in critical care and paediatric populations<sup>1,2</sup>, limited evidence-based studies examining barriers and facilitators to pain assessment and management in residents with advanced dementia in long-term care settings have been conducted to date. No such studies have been conducted in the long-term care setting in Northern Ireland.

Aim

To explore care home nurses' perspectives of facilitators of and barriers to providing optimum pain assessment and management to people with advanced dementia living in the nursing home setting in Northern Ireland.

Methods

- ❖ Semi-structured one-to-one interviews were conducted with nursing home nurses.
- ❖ Participants were recruited through the Queen's University Belfast Care Home Network.
- ❖ Eligible participants included nurses actively caring for residents with dementia, nursing home managers, regional managers, trainers registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council, and nursing home nurses who had successfully completed induction or preceptorship training.
- ❖ An interview guide was developed and piloted with three nurses who met the eligibility criteria for the study.
- ❖ Interviews took place via Microsoft Teams, were audio-recorded, transcribed verbatim, and analysed using reflexive thematic analysis.
- ❖ Participants provided verbal informed consent prior to their interview.
- ❖ Transcripts were validated by two researchers independently (AM and CP), and analysed using reflexive thematic analysis.
- ❖ The Faculty of Medicine, Health and Life Sciences Research Ethics Committee at Queen's University Belfast granted ethical approval on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 (MHLS 23\_115).

Results

- ❖ Ten nurses were interviewed between November 2023 and June 2024; iterative data analysis revealed that information power was achieved after ten interviews and recruitment ceased.
- ❖ All participants were female, with professional experience ranging from 7 months to 30 years. Mean interview duration was 41.4 minutes, and the interviews ranged in length from 25 minutes to 61 minutes.
- ❖ Reflexive thematic analysis generated six themes: the crucial role of the nurse, recognising and assessing pain, pharmacological and non-pharmacological approaches, communication with families and healthcare professionals (HCPs), training and resources, and barriers and challenges in pain assessment and management (Figure 1).

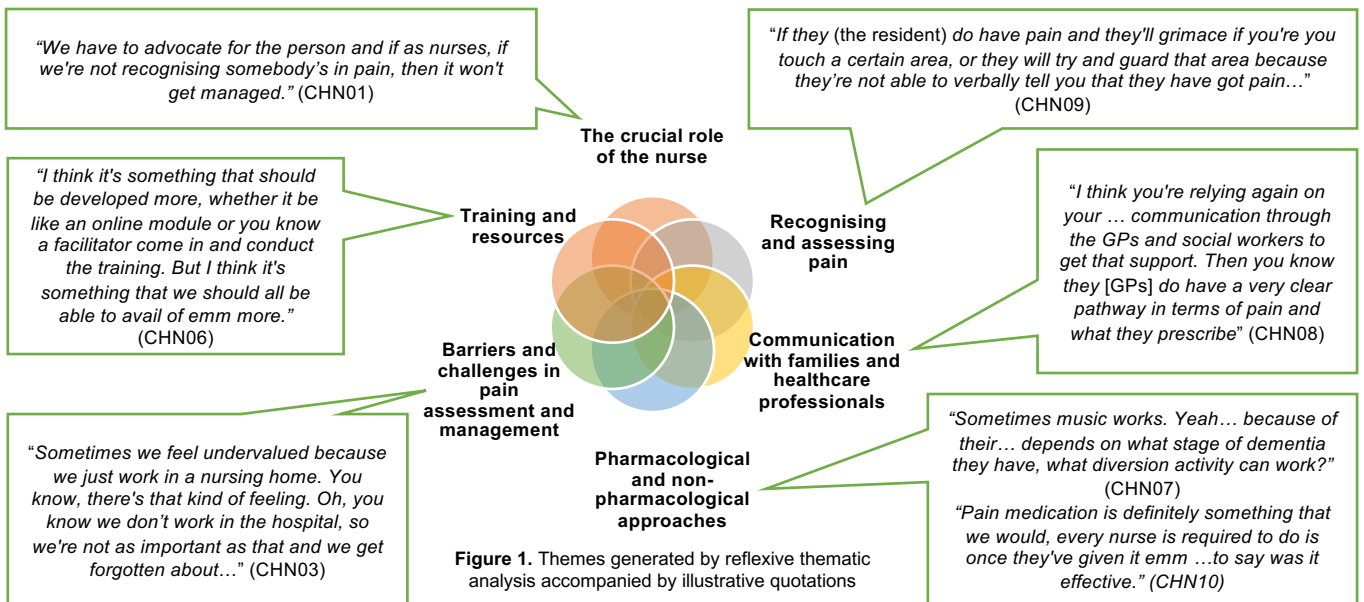


Figure 1. Themes generated by reflexive thematic analysis accompanied by illustrative quotations

Conclusion

- ❖ Education and explicit guidelines were identified as key to improving pain assessment and management in residents with advanced dementia.
- ❖ Nursing homes should implement standardised policies and protocols, enhance nurse education on pain assessment tools and management strategies, and promote interdisciplinary collaboration to enhance recognition and management of pain and ultimately improve the quality of life for residents with advanced dementia.



lembaga pengelola dana pendidikan

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References

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