

MOVING PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA

There is substantial evidence to suggest that moving people with dementia is detrimental to their health. The move can be from one living environment to another or temporary environments.

The original plan was to move residents within the building, potentially, multiple times whilst the building works were underway. This decision was made as it was felt that would be least impactful for the residents. However, evidence suggests that even moves within the same living environment, can cause issues. Below is further information regarding the risks of moving people with dementia;

Health Effects of the Relocation of Patients With Dementia: A Scoping Review to Inform Medical and Policy Decision-Making – Nov 2019

[Health Effects of the Relocation of Patients With Dementia: A Scoping Review to Inform Medical and Policy Decision-Making - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)

In most studies, the health effects of the relocation of older adults suffering from dementia showed a decline in physical, mental, behavioural, and functional well-being was reported. The most recurring effect was a higher level of stress, which is more problematic for patients with dementia. In general, unless it is carefully planned, it is best to avoid changing lives of people with dementia and it is recommended to actively work to reduce their exposure to stress.

Prevent Elder Transfer Trauma: Tips to Ease Relocation Stress By Kate Jackson

[Prevent Elder Transfer Trauma: Tips to Ease Relocation Stress \(socialworktoday.com\)](#)

Relocation Stress Syndrome and Transfer Trauma

Tracy Greene Mintz, LCSW, is a nationally recognised expert in relocation stress syndrome whose company, Senior Care Training, equips social workers and the entire range of professionals involved in eldercare to prevent relocation stress syndrome, also known as transfer trauma. She characterizes the syndrome as a cluster of symptoms that can occur in anyone who moves from one environment to another, whether a child who has to change schools or an adult who transfers to a new job in a new city.

"Transfer refers to the fact that someone has moved from one living environment to another or is temporarily staying in a new environment," says Kim Warchol, OTR/L, founder and president of Dementia Care Specialists, a company that helps improve quality of life for those with dementia and their families by providing professional training and memory care consultation services. "Trauma refers to the severe emotional response to the move."

A Cluster of Symptoms

Symptoms of transfer trauma may occur before, during, and for several months after a move and may be mild or severe depending on the individual and the circumstances. Greene Mintz categorizes the cluster of reactions into mood, behavior, and physiological symptoms. Mood symptoms include feeling sad, angry, irritable, depressed, anxious, or tearful. "That's very common, because they don't know what is happening to them," she says. Behavior-related symptoms include combativeness, screaming, complaining, and generally challenging behaviors.

Achieving Closure – Good practice in supporting older people during residential care closures:

[Achieving closure \(birmingham.ac.uk\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk)