Treatment Services

Although there is currently no cure for dementia, there are some treatments available for the symptoms of dementia. We encourage you to talk about these options with your healthcare provider. The following are the treatment services offered by MMDU:

- Psychiatric Evaluation
- Medication Adjustment and Management
- Supportive Care with Activities of Daily Living (ADL's)
- Counseling and Education for Patients and Families
- Multi-Disciplinary Treatment Team Staffings
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Respiratory Therapy
- Recreational Therapy
- Pain Management
- Dietary Evaluation

Please visit www.LRMC.com for other geriatric services available at Lakeland Regional Medical Center.

Contact Information

MMDU Social Worker's Office.....(863)284-1948

Dementia Screening Info.....(863)687-1222

Mental Health &
Addictions Recovery.....(863)687-1275

Please contact us with any questions.
We are here to assist in any way we can.

Community Resources

A list of Dementia and Alzheimer's Support Groups is available through your local Alzheimer's Association. Call (863)688-4834.

Visit the following websites to gain a greater understanding of dementia:

http://www.dementia.com

http://www.alz.org

http://www.nami.org

Mental Health/Addictions Recovery Center at
Lakeland Regional Medical Center
Advanced Technology. Close To Home.

The Medical Memory Disorder Unit

Lakeland Regional Medical Center
1324 Lakeland Hills Blvd.

www.LRMC.com/mentalhealth

The Medical Memory Disorder Unit (MMDU)

Living With Dementia And Alzheimer's

Help for patients and their families

Mental Health/Addictions Recovery Center at
Lakeland Regional Medical Center
Advanced Technology. Close To Home.

Helping Those with Memory Disorders

The Medical Memory Disorder Unit (MMDU) is part of the Mental Health and Addictions Recovery Department of Lakeland Regional Medical Center. MMDU focuses on providing immediate care to patients who are experiencing difficulty adjusting to their memory related disorder. Treatment on the MMDU is focused on restoring patients to their highest level of functioning. An emphasis is also placed on counseling and education for the patient's family members, so they can gain an understanding of their family member's illness and their own role as potential caregivers.

Once a patient is stabilized, the doctor and therapist will work with the patient and family to determine a safe and appropriate discharge plan. If a patient is able to return home to a caregiver, the therapist will arrange follow-up appointments as well as home healthcare for the patient if needed. If a patient needs a higher level of care, the therapist will assist the family in finding placement that will meet the patient's care needs. The therapist will then facilitate the referral and discharge process.

Our staff includes board certified geriatric psychiatrists and advanced registered nurse practitioners, as well as master's level therapists and social workers, RN's, LPN's, and patient care assistants/technicians. This treatment team is devoted to providing support, education, encouragement, and care to both our patients and their families, as they move through this difficult time in their lives.

What is Dementia?

Dementia is a collective name for a progressive brain dysfunction that causes a decline in cognitive skills and intellectual functioning. Dementia can affect a person's memory, thought processes, behavior, personality, and emotions. Dementia gradually interferes with a person's ability to complete activities of daily living, such as eating, bathing, and grooming. People with dementia will ultimately need help with all aspects of their daily life.

Alzheimer's Disease is the most common form of dementia. Alzheimer's Disease affects the parts of the brain that control thought, memory, and language. Although Alzheimer's Disease is not a normal part of the aging process, the incidence of this disease does increase with age.

All patients with dementia need much support and encouragement. This disease gradually destroys a person's memory and the ability to learn new information, making the world a frightening place for a person with dementia. Dementia not only affects the person, it affects the entire family. The personal and emotional stress of caring for a person with dementia can be overwhelming, so it is important for family members to take care of themselves and seek support from friends, family, and community resources.

Symptoms

Talk to your doctor if you or your family member is experiencing any of the following:

- Memory loss (especially short-term memory problems)
- Difficulty performing once familiar tasks (i.e. dressing, preparing meals)
- Problems communicating (finding the right word or conveying a thought)
- Disorientation to time or place
- Poor or decreased judgment
- Change in mood or behavior
- Change in personality
- Misplacing items

Referral Process

What should I do if I can no longer care for my family member at home?

- Contact your primary care doctor to discuss patient's current symptoms/ behaviors and treatment options. Your doctor may recommend inpatient services on MMDU.
- Call The Center for Counseling at (863)687-1222 to schedule a dementia screening to determine if your family member needs immediate inpatient services.
- If this is a crisis situation, contact 9-1-1 for your local emergency services, take your family member to the nearest emergency room, or contact Peace River Center's Crisis Response Team at (863)519-3744.