



Dementia Management

With 10 percent of seniors ages 65–85 experiencing some level of cognitive impairment, the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) has identified dementia as a common health condition among the nation's older adults. Dementia is more prevalent for those ages 85 and older, with 55 percent of these seniors experiencing its symptoms.



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In order to provide dementia patients with individualized treatment, Aegis Therapies designed a Dementia Management program that incorporates the Restore, Compensate and Adapt model of care. This older-adult model of care is designed to improve quality of life for the patient without limiting his or her abilities.

- **Restore**—Emphasizes restoration of underlying impairments that impact function.
- **Compensate**—Teaches the patient to compensate for deficits, focusing on the functional deficits that continue to be impacted by underlying impairments.
- **Adapt**—The task and environment are the sources of change, not the patient.

The Dementia Management program incorporates the use of Allen Cognitive Levels to focus on the patient's abilities—what they *can* do rather than what they are unable to do. By focusing on a patient's strengths, the therapist can develop a program that capitalizes on those strengths and allows the patient to function at his or her best ability.

Allen Cognitive Levels also have a predictive value. Once a patient's cognitive level is identified, the therapist can use that information to predict the functional tasks the patient should be able to perform. This allows the therapist to establish a therapeutic program for the patient with specific instructions to aid caregivers who carry out the program. The success of the program is evidenced when the patient is able to function within his or her best ability.