

The impact of
**untreated Alzheimer's
disease (AD)**
in long-term care (LTC)



When left untreated, Alzheimer's disease (AD) can lead to serious consequences¹⁻⁴

Resident Impact



Cognitive decline progresses rapidly, resulting in a greater risk of developing severe dementia^{1,2}



Behavioral issues caused by AD persist³

- Agitation
- Sleep disturbances
- Wandering
- Apathy
- Depression
- Delirium



Untreated AD is associated with an increased risk of mortality for long-term care residents⁴



Have you observed any of these issues among your residents with AD that are not currently on treatment?

REFERENCES:

1. Xu H, et al. *Neurology*. 2021;96(17):e2220-e2230.
2. Yaffe K, et al. *J Am Geriatr Soc*. 2002;50(3):456-462.
3. Tan ECK, et al. *Am J Geriatr Psychiatry*. 2020;28(1):108-117.
4. Havreng-Théry C, et al. *Alzheimers Res Ther*. 2024;16(1):117.

Residents with Alzheimer's disease (AD) have an increased risk of falls and fractures^{1,2}

Unintentional weight loss can pose negative consequences for residents with AD¹⁻³

8x Older adults with AD are 8 times more likely to fall³

2.7x AD is associated with a 2.7 increased risk in hip fracture, a leading cause of hospitalization in long-term care (LTC)^{4,5}

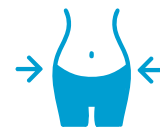


What are the most common reasons your residents with AD experience falls?

REFERENCES:

1. Kröpelin TF, et al. *Int Psychogeriatr*. 2013;25(4):549-563.
2. Mass.gov. Trends in fall-related injury among nursing home residents in Massachusetts, 2018-2022. Published 2023. Accessed January 29, 2025. <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/trends-in-fall-related-injury-among-nursing-home-residents-in-massachusetts-2018-2022>.
3. Allan LM, et al. *J Am Geriatr Soc*. 2009;57(9):1501-1506.
4. Melton LJ, et al. *J Am Geriatr Soc*. 1994;42(6):614-619.
5. Ronald LA, et al. *Can J Aging*. 2010;29(1): 77-85.

40% Up to 40% of older adults with AD experience clinically significant weight loss^{1,2}



Weight loss can result in 2 times greater risk for hip fracture³



Increased weight loss is associated with AD progression and mortality¹



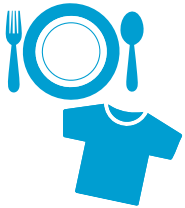
What are the common reasons your residents with AD experience significant weight loss?

REFERENCES:

1. White H, et al. *J Am Geriatr Soc*. 1996; 44(3):265-72.
2. Franx BAA, et al. *Drugs Aging*. 2016;33(11):773-785.
3. Ensrud KE, et al. *J Am Geriatr Soc*. 2003;51(12):1740-1747.

Activities of daily living (ADLs) and quality of life are also often impacted^{1,2}

As Alzheimer's disease (AD) continues to progress:



Residents' ability to perform ADLs is negatively impacted¹

- Eating
- Dressing
- Grooming
- Bathing
- Toileting

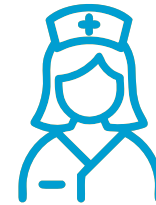


Residents experience decreased quality of life²

- Social isolation
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Loss of independence



What ADLs are most impacted for your residents with AD?



Staff and Facility Impact

REFERENCES:

1. Marshall GA, et al. *Neurodegener Dis Manag*. 2012;2(5):483-491.
2. Gaugler JE, et al. *Health Aff (Millwood)*. 2014;33(4):650-657.

Nursing staff may also be impacted by caring for residents with Alzheimer's disease (AD)

Nurses report high levels of workload-related stress caring for older adults with AD¹



Behavioral issues associated with AD increase nursing staff burden in long-term care²



Impaired ability to perform ADLs in residents with AD increases nursing staff burden²

78%

Of long-term care nurses reported to be regularly confronted by sleep disturbances related to dementia³



What are main challenges your nursing staff faces when caring for residents with AD?

REFERENCES:

1. Kang Y, Hur Y. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*. 2021;18(15):8042.
2. Sun M, et al. *Int Psychogeriatr*. 2018;30(10):1549-1555.
3. Wilfling D, et al. *BMC Nurs*. 2020;19:83.

Your facility evaluation may also be impacted by consequences of AD

Quality measure scoring is an important rating system based on resident assessment data that demonstrate how well a facility is managing its residents¹

Quality measures that may be impacted:



Percent of residents who experience one or more falls with major injury: Accidents - F689



Percent of hospitalizations among residents: Permitting residents to return to the facility – F626
Discharge planning process – F660



Percent of residents whose need for help with activities of daily living has increased: Activities of daily living – F679



Percent of residents who lose too much weight: Nutrition and hydration – F692



Percent of residents who receive an antipsychotic medication: Free from unnecessary psychotropic medication – F757



What quality measures do you think may be impacted at your facility?

REFERENCES:

1. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Quality measures. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Available at: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/GuidanceforLawsAndRegulations/Downloads/List-of-Revised-FTags.pdf>. Accessed January 27, 2025.

Acetylcholinesterase inhibitors (AChEIs) are considered first-line therapy to address cognitive issues in mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease (AD)¹



Treatment Considerations

AChEIs are recommended to be widely used for nursing home residents with AD²

Older adults taking AChEIs may exhibit:



Slower decline in cognitive function³

40% Reduced risk of mortality³



Lower likelihood of psychiatric and anxiety medication initiation⁴

Some AChEI options have side effects and residents should be monitored for any tolerability issues and/or appropriate treatment changes⁵

- Nausea
- Dizziness
- Weight Loss
- Diarrhea
- Headache
- Insomnia
- Vomiting
- Fatigue



What would treatment success look like to you when managing residents with AD?

REFERENCES:

1. Alzheimer's Association. Alzheimer's facts and figures. Alzheimer's Association. Published 2023. Available at: <https://www.alz.org/media/Documents/alzheimers-facts-and-figures.pdf>. Accessed January 7, 2025.
2. Havreng-Théry C, et al. *Alzheimers Res Ther*. 2024;16(1):117.
3. Zuin M, et al. *Sci Rep*. 2022;12(1):12214.
4. Tan ECK, et al. *J Am Geriatr Soc*. 2022;70(11):3216-3224.
5. Ruangritchankul S, et al. *J Clin Pharm Ther*. 2021;46(3):515-527.

Finding the treatment option that will be most beneficial to your residents with Alzheimer's disease (AD) is critical

For your residents with AD, consider the following:

1. Follow your facility's protocol to create a care plan for the individual resident
2. Evaluate relevant treatment guidelines for appropriately managing residents with AD
3. Assess relevant clinical guidelines such as BEERS, AGS, and CMS when looking at appropriate care management for older residents
4. Evaluate relevant treatment options based on drug formulation, efficacy, tolerability, safety, administration, and cost/coverage
 - Even if a resident discontinued an AD treatment, evaluate for a different treatment option



What considerations are most important to you when determining the appropriate treatment option for your residents with AD?