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## Elder self-neglect and dementia: Challenges for community based teams

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Elders with dementia are significantly more likely to neglect their own needs, and determining the role of cognitive impairment is a key factor in creating successful interventions for change. Community based care teams, be they clinic based, or from home health, are similarly confronted with the challenge of how to support independence while promoting wellness and safety. Through careful analysis of the multi-factorial nature of self-neglect, teams can create care systems that honour autonomy and prevent placement. Creativity, flexibility, and acceptance of the “dignity of risk” allow care providers to make an impact while supporting aging in place. Reflecting on recent patients will allow a close intimate consideration of elders, who self-neglect and the risks and benefits of intervention.

### Biography

Caitlin Hildebrand is an Adult and Gerontology Nurse Practitioner with significant experience in community based care teams, through the Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), home health and hospice and quality improvement. With Masters in Health Administration and Nursing from University of California San Francisco and University of Pennsylvania, she is a published scholar on elder self-neglect and dementia. She has a passion for programs that support Aging in Place and a palliative approach to care for all frail people.

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