

# Informing how to translate the Medication Appropriateness Tool for Comorbid Health conditions during Dementia (MATCH-D) into practice

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**Background** Prescribing for people with dementia who live with comorbid conditions is challenging. We developed and validated the interdisciplinary Medication Appropriateness Tool for Comorbid Health conditions in Dementia (MATCH-D) criteria to guide medication use for people with dementia.

**Purpose** To inform the implementation strategies for the MATCH-D tool, we aimed to identify enablers and barriers for application of the MATCH-D in practice.

**Method** Focus groups were held with consumers, general practitioners, nurses and pharmacists across two Australian states (Western Australia and Victoria). An independent experienced focus group facilitator facilitated discussions using a running sheet. The same facilitator ran each focus group. Data were collected in multiple ways from the focus group sessions: researcher observations and field notes, audio recordings, written transcriptions, and participant demographics. The collected data were collated for analysis. Data were thematically analysed line by line.

**Findings** Nine focus group sessions were conducted with 55 participants. Participants included 41 health professionals (22 GPs, nine registered nurses, and 10 pharmacists) and 14 consumers (two people with dementia and 12 carers). Participants validated the content of the MATCH D criteria. The participants considered the MATCH-D criteria to provide guiding principles of care while remaining patient-centred. Potential applications for its use were identified, and resources suggested to support implementation.

**Conclusion** Participants identified enablers and barriers to implementation of the MATCH-D in practice, including suggested resources that can be developed to form a toolkit for use. These data provide external validation of the MATCH-D criteria and important data providing an empiric basis for their translation to practice. We are now applying these findings in clinical research to evaluate feasibility and efficacy of implementing the criteria in practice.