



Category: Setting the Stage / Support for Caregivers Staff and Family

Award Reference Number: 1289

Region: National

Disease: Alzheimers

Organisation Type: Agency/ Pharmaceutical

Intervention: Patient Adherence

Key words: Atlantis, Eisai, Pfizer, dementia, Aricept, TimeTo

TimeTo Patient and Carer Support Programme Atlantis Healthcare

Setting: Atlantis Healthcare have designed, developed and implemented over 50 patient support programmes worldwide. With over a decade of bringing positive change to many thousands of patients across an extensive range of disease areas, we have driven commercial outcomes for some of the largest pharmaceutical brands and have also lent our experience to government bodies and institutions to improve the healthcare delivery system. Atlantis Healthcare in the UK are based in London and employ 30 staff.

Introduction: Dementia affects 750,000 people in the UK today. Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia in the UK affecting up to 417,000 people. There is currently no cure for Alzheimer's disease but there are a few treatments which slow down the progression of the disease such as Aricept® (donepezil). However if a patient is not adherent to treatment they will not realise the efficacy that the treatment could provide. In Alzheimer's disease there is a significant problem with adherence to treatment. A recent study by Joseph E. Amuah showed that 12 months after being prescribed treatment, 60% of patients with Alzheimer's Disease had discontinued therapy.

The impact of Alzheimer's disease is not only on the patient but on the family too. Family carers of people with dementia save the UK over £6 billion a year. They are one of the most vulnerable groups of carers and often have high levels of stress, feelings of guilt, depression and other psychological problems. Studies have shown that the levels of psychological distress experienced by this group are higher than those experienced by carers of physically frail elderly people and non-caregivers. Informal carers for people with dementia often ignore their own health needs in favour of those of the person for whom they care. As a consequence they may become exhausted, have poor physical health and feel isolated (NICE-SCIE, 2007). In short, caring for an individual with dementia places a huge burden on all domains of the carer's life, including their emotional, physical and social functioning.

Eisai and Pfizer, the manufacturers of Aricept, and Atlantis Healthcare have developed a support programme for patients with Alzheimer's disease on Aricept and their carers which aims to address the issue of non-adherence to treatment and also the burden on carers.

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