

Overview CHARE GD-II sub projects.

Title: The use of closed doors in dementia wards. Comparing cultural and moral perspectives as well as contexts for mutual learning in the cross-border region.

Scientific project leaders:

German side	Dutch side
Prof.Dr. Mark Schweda	Dr. Elleke Landeweer

Student / researcher conducting the project: Dr. Jodi Sturge

Starting date of the project: 4th of April, 2022

Project description:

Background:

A closed-door policy in dementia care units is contested as it limits individual freedom and mobility of residents, raising moral questions regarding the right balance between freedom and safety. In both German and Dutch wards, various strategies have been implemented to deal with this problem. However, there is a lack of knowledge on which interventions are used for what reasons, under what circumstances, and to what effect.

Main research questions:

What are the interventions and strategies (i.e., less restrictive alternatives for closed doors) used to prevent residents from wandering outside the premises and/ or safeguard residents' health and wellbeing in both regions as well as their perceived success?

What are differences and similarities between the two regions (e.g., regarding residents, nursing home/ health care organizations, regulations) and between the healthcare professionals' moral perspectives regarding the use of closed doors?

How can both sides of the border improve their practice through knowledge exchange and mutual learning as well as dissemination of our findings?

Design:

This study uses a mixed method design, starting with a literature search to map studied interventions and their considered pros and cons, as well as a document and policy analysis. The quantitative part collects data in 4 care units per region (N=8) regarding 10-15 residents per unit (N=80-120). For the qualitative part, interviews with stakeholders ('experts in practice') and observations will be conducted within the 8 care units. Per unit, first outcomes will be discussed in a heterogeneous focus group meeting. Results per unit and region will be compared and thematically analyzed combined with an ethical analysis. For valorization

and implementation of results, site visits between the regions will be organized and a symposium to develop shared learning lessons will be held.

Expected results:

Insights in similarities and differences of cross-border regions regarding closed-door policies in dementia wards and possible new juridical insights.

In depth understanding of moral perspectives and evaluations regarding closed-door policies among professionals and other stakeholders on both sides.

Empirically informed and context-sensitive ethical recommendations for dealing with wandering behavior in dementia wards that contribute to the quality of care.