

# DisDAT

exploring its applicability in  
a range of practice settings

30th OCTOBER 2006 • St Leonards • Pollock Halls • University of Edinburgh

## What is DISDAT?

The Disability Distress Assessment Tool (DisDAT) is

- Intended to help identify distress cues in people who because of cognitive impairment or physical illness have severely limited communication.
- Designed to describe a person's usual content cues, thus enabling distress cues to be identified more clearly.
- NOT a scoring tool. It documents what many staff have done instinctively for many years thus providing a record against which subtle changes can be compared. This information can be transferred with the client or patient to any environment.
- Only the first step. Once distress has been identified the usual clinical decisions have to be made by professionals.
- Meant to help you and your client or patient. It gives you more confidence in the observation skills you already have which in turn will help you improve the care of your client or patient.

## Who should attend?

The focus of the day is on using the DisDAT tool in practice but will include a range of presentations that draw from the fields of practice and research.

We therefore encourage people involved in providing direct care for people who may be experiencing pain, those responsible for developing, providing and commissioning services and for training care providers, as well as researchers and policymakers to attend.

## Objective of the conference

The objective of this conference is to share current knowledge and practice around the DisDAT tool and experiences of using the DisDAT with different populations across a range of settings.

The format includes a range of presentations and 'knowledge cafés' to ensure that everyone participating on the day has an opportunity to both gain and share knowledge.

## The team

During eight years of establishing a palliative care service for people with learning disabilities, Dorothy Mathews, Lynn Gibson and Claud Regnard developed DisDAT in response to the need to identify and monitor distress in people with severe communication difficulties.

# PROGRAMME

9.00	<b>Tea/coffee and registration</b>
9.30	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b> Chair: Dr Heather Wilkinson, University of Edinburgh
9.35	<b>What is DisDAT?</b> Claud Regnard FRCP, Consultant in Palliative Care Medicine, St. Oswald's Hospice Dorothy Mathews and Lynn Gibson
10.25 to 11.45	<b>Presentations on the use of DisDAT with specific populations including:</b> People with dementia • People with a learning disability Acute care settings • Community hospital settings <b>Speakers include:</b> Matt Hayes, Centre for Research on Families and Relationships Alice Jordan, Old age psychiatrist, University of Newcastle Stephen Smith, Co-ordinator Dementia Palliative Care Project
11.45	<b>Coffee break</b>
12.00	<b>Knowledge café discussion</b>
1.15	<b>Lunch</b>
2.15	<b>Structured feedback from knowledge cafés</b> – facilitated by Heather Wilkinson and Claud Regnard
2.45	<b>Panel discussion taking Q&amp;A from audience</b> – all speakers from the morning
3.30	<b>Where does DisDAT go from here and closing remarks</b> Claud Regnard, Dorothy Mathews and Lynn Gibson
4.00	<b>Close</b>

Book online at:

<http://www.cfr.ac.uk/events/disdatabook.html>  
or contact Laura Marshall on [l.marshall@ed.ac.uk](mailto:l.marshall@ed.ac.uk)

DELEGATE FEE

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