

Dementia-Friendly Wayfinding Game Plan

11 Steps To Improve Wayfinding
And Meet The Rising Demand For
Dementia-Friendly Facilities.

1 Orientation Indicators

Locate artwork and large-format graphics at decision points to help patients connect to their surroundings. Imagery that references the local community and nature are best.



2 Icons & Illustrations

Pairing familiar icons along side text whenever possible will help reinforce legibility and wayfinding for patients and visitors alike.

3 Large Letters & Numbers

Use large letters and numbers in prominent locations to help patients easily identify the current level and area.

4 Clear, Plain Language

Opt for shorter clinic names in lieu of lengthy hard-to-remember ones. An example might be renaming "Ophthalmology" to "Eye Clinic".

5 Progressive Disclosure

Signage with long lists of destinations can be confusing for everyone, including those with dementia. Information should flow from general to specific.



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6 Neighborhoods & Zones

Create neighborhoods or zones with distinct names, colors, icons and imagery to further reinforce orientation within the facility.



7 Crisp Sans Serif Text

Using simple, uncluttered designs and sans serif text with high-contrast to the background will increase legibility.

8 Bright & Bold Colors

Bright, bold and vivid colors help signage stand out amongst muted architectural finishes and white walls common in healthcare facilities.

9 Patient Room Information

Updatable patient room information signs such as CareTabs make staff and visitors aware of a patient's special requirements.



10 Consistency

Consistency across all signage, messaging and pre-visitation information is critical in preventing confusion for patients and visitors.

11 A Wayfinding Partner

To ensure successful implementation and adherence, recruit advocates internally and externally by creating a wayfinding task force and hire a trusted signage partner.