A7 - Lessons learnt from developing the BPSD Guide app for clinicians

K Burn, R Jayasinha, H Broadyt
DCRC-Assessment and Better Care, UNSW Australia

In 2012 DCRC-ABC was funded by the Australian Government as represented by the Department of Social Services to produce the document Behaviour Management: A Guide to Good Practice, Managing Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia (BPSD). The target group for the guide is clinicians working in the Dementia Behaviour Management and Advisory Services (DBMAS). Demand for the guide beyond DBMAS led to additional funding to produce the BPSD Guide electronic application (app) for iPhone, iPad and Android devices.

The scope of the app is to provide quick reference to key information which can potentially support clinicians working in the field. The project to develop the BPSD Guide app encompassed several phases: conception and consultation, layout and planning, design implementation and release.

Initially, consultation was conducted with a cross-section of DBMAS clinicians to determine the level of interest and need. App developers were contracted to build the app framework. The next phase involved collaborating with the app developers to incorporate content adapted from summaries of the BPSD Guide into the app framework. Following the design implementation phase, a trial of the app was undertaken and subsequently released for public download on Apple iTunes and Google Play stores.

Lessons learnt from the app development process will be discussed. For example, legal requirements, maintaining a close working relationship with app developers, the challenge
of adapting clinically important information into a condensed yet clinically meaningful format and incorporating opportunities for future evaluation of the app.