

Supplementary Table 1

Consolidated Criteria for Reporting Qualitative Research (COREQ) Checklist

Checklist Number, Item, Domain	Description of How Criteria Met
Domain 1: Research team and reflexivity	
Personal characteristics	
1. Interviewer/facilitator	Three researchers (R1, R2, R3) conducted interviews and participant observation.
2. Credentials	R1 had a PhD in ethnomusicology (music anthropology), R2 had both MD (geriatrician and former medical director) and PhD in ethnomusicology, and R3 had a master's degree in psychology.
3. Occupation	R1 was a clinical research coordinator, R2 was an associate professor of medicine, and R3 was a clinical research coordinator.
4. Sex	Researchers were female.
5. Experience and training	R1 and R2, who did most of the home visits and all of the team training, had extensive experience and formal training. Each had previously designed, implemented and completed a multi-year longitudinal ethnographic study as part of their doctoral training.
Relationship with participants	
6. Relationship established	A few of the participants were previously known to R2 through her work as the former medical director and geriatric consultant in a VA Home based primary care program.
7. Participant knowledge of the interviewer	To provide transparency, the research team identified themselves as a music researcher (R1), a geriatric doctor and music researcher (R2), and a member of the research team learning how to conduct interviews (R3). We were clear that we each had personal and professional investment in improving quality of life for dementia caregiving dyads. To address bias and implicit assumptions created by training and experience, R1 and R2 observed one another and attended visits together for the first 5 dyads. Following visits, the researchers debriefed, provided feedback on interview technique and minimized differences in data collected. For example, early in the study R2 was more likely to assess gait and R1 was more likely to look for unused music devices in the corner of the room. By the fifth dyad, R1 and R2 had established clear norms for information to collect and this information was brought back to the team for input.
8. Interviewer characteristics	
Domain 2: Study design	
Theoretical framework	
9. Methodological orientation and theory	The study is underpinned by ethnography, but the methods used (see below) are common to both ethnography and grounded theory.
Participant selection	
10. Sampling	Purposive sampling, starting with the VA home based primary care program in which R2 was a team member until sufficient data was collected, followed by purposive sampling of the home-based primary care program at the affiliated university to compare differences between Veterans and non-Veterans, and then by purposive sampling from an outpatient geriatric clinic to see how living setting differed when the medical team was not providing home visits. Once potential participants had been recruited and enrolled from all 3 sites, and the data was sufficient to reveal key themes, additional participants were purposively recruited to challenge and refine the themes. Sampling criteria include sex and ethnic/racial/cultural diversity, diversity in music and dementia caregiving experience (including outliers such as a professional musician and a retired physician), and caregiving relationship.
11. Method of approach	Potential recruits were identified in collaboration with their primary care teams and sent a letter with an opt-out postcard, followed by a telephone call and face-to-face consenting.
12. Sample size	21 people living with dementia, 20 care partners (1 care partner worked with a husband and wife who both had dementia).
13. Non-participation	2 dyads completed only their initial interviews but had to repeatedly reschedule follow-up visits due to care partner health issues. Eventually they were unable to complete the study.
Setting	
14. Setting of data collection	In-home data collection.
15. Presence of non-participants	Occasionally a family member or additional members of the care network were present. They were made aware of the research study, including audio recording, and offered the opportunity to leave.
16. Description of sample	Table 1 provides a description of sample.
Data collection	
17. Interview guide	An institutional review board-approved interview guide was used and sample questions provided in the Methods section.
18. Repeat interviews	Yes, there were a total of 3 in-home visits.
19. Audio/visual recording	Audio recordings were used in the second and third home visits
20. Field notes	Field "jottings" were taken during study procedures and written up as field notes following the home visits.
21. Duration	In-home visits took between 45 minutes and 3 hours (the latter because of the participants wanting to continue)
22. Data saturation	The level of data saturation was met, but it is discussed in the article as sufficient data to identify the underlying themes.
23. Transcripts returned	Transcripts were not returned to participants in this study, although participants were offered the option to request them.
Domain 3: Analysis and findings	
Data analysis	
24. Number of data coders	Two
25. Description of the coding tree	The coding tree is described through use of example in the manuscript.
26. Derivation of themes	Themes were derived inductively from the data.
27. Software	ATLAS.ti software was used to manage the data.
28. Participant checking	Yes, as new participants were recruited, we provided them with preliminary findings for comment.
Reporting	
29. Quotations presented	Quotations and descriptions derived from field notes are presented to illustrate the themes.
30. Data and findings consistent	Most of the data presented supports the findings. We have included a section on discordant and alternate findings to present the small amount of data that does not support the themes directly.
31. Clarity of major themes	To clarify the major themes, we present a representative figure in addition to the table and text.
32. Clarity of minor themes	We have included a section on discordant and alternate findings to present the small amount of data that does not support the themes directly.