

FLOWCHART FOR CARE HOMES FOR OLDER PEOPLE WITH SUSPECTED MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS

This flow chart has been designed to help care staff consider possible causes to changes in emotions, behaviour and functioning.

Has there been a rapid change in the persons' behaviour?

CONSIDER REFERRAL TO GP

- Infection-
- Delirium- Temperature/Bloods
- Dehydration- Bloods/Fluid Balance chart
- Pain- Pain assessment tool
- Hunger-Fluid and Diet charts, Constipation- monitor bowel habits
- Tiredness- Sleep Charts
- Change in medication- Side effects, withdrawals

Has there been a gradual change in the persons' behaviour?

CONSIDER -MENTAL HEALTH CHANGES

- Depression- complete appropriate assessment tool
- Hallucinations-NB- exclude Delirium
- Delusions- NB exclude Delirium
- Sun-downing- increased agitation occurring late afternoon/early evening
- Decline in Dementia

ENVIRONMENTAL CAUSES

- Sensory Needs- Noise levels, appropriate stimulation, under stimulated
- Environmental layout, signage, sensory impact

PSYCHOSOCIAL / OTHER CAUSES

- Staff approach- Tone, body language, poor verbal/and or non-verbal communication
- Change in routine, Impact of inflexible routines
- Task orientated care
- Client group- interaction between residents
- Staff turnover

IDEAS TO TRY OR TO THINK ABOUT

- ABC charts- document all agitated aggressive behaviours
- Adjust care plan to address new needs
- Approach to resident- clear, repeated communication, consider hearing/sight, memory, comprehension etc.
- Spiritual needs
- Persons' preference- eg. Showering/bath, sex of carer,
- Life Story- can increase our understand of residents needs and likes/dislikes, can provide distraction subjects
- Individual playlists- music during personal care?
- Sensory stimulation (too much, too little?)
- SPECAL approach
- Behavioural Support plans

Telephone the relevant HPFT Mental Health team for informal advice
NW-01442 275628 SW- 01923 837148
East-01707 364003 North-01438 792190

If no improvement or further decline-Referral required – via Single Point of Access (SPA) to the Mental Health Team- 0300 7770707
REFER BEFORE CRISIS OCCURS