



GERIATRIC EDUCATION SERIES DEMENTIA

DEMENTIA 8A's

COGNITION SYMPTOMS

Amnesia

- Repeats same questions or stories
- Head turning sign
- Forgets- events, appointments, recent conversations, medications, leaves stove on, tap running, forgets to lock the house, forgets bills or other:
- Misplaces things
- Forgets correct month/year

Aphasia

- Word-finding difficulty (people's names, common words, nouns)
- Trouble with simple or complex verbal and written instructions
- Word substitution/description
- Trouble following a conversation

Agnosia (difficulty identifying objects/recognizing people despite intact sensory function)

- Recognizing family members or faces
- Disorientation/Way-finding difficulty (unfamiliar/familiar surroundings)

Apraxia (difficulty with motor task despite intact motor/sensory function)

- Dressing - inside-out, multiple layers (can also be related to memory)
- Trouble with tool use – utensils, toothbrush, razor, remote control computer, microwaves, appliances, walker, etc.

Apathy (dementia – perks up when stimulated vs. apathy of depression – stimulation has no impact on affect)

- Flat affect
- Decreased initiative

Attention Deficit

- Inability to shift attention (perseveration)
- Loses train of thought or tangential
- Trouble dividing attention (multitasking)
- Inability to maintain attention/easily distracted

Altered Perception (misinterpretation of sensory information - visual, auditory, tactile, olfactory)

- Hallucinations (seen/felt/heard)
- Delusions (strong belief despite evidence to the contrary)
- Suspiciousness/Paranoia

Anosognosia (lack of insight about limitations/knowledge of disease/concerns denied)

Executive Function (SOAPS: strategizing, organizing, arranging, planning, sequencing)

- Difficulty with SOAPS affecting function
- Problem solving

Judgment (consider long standing personal choices, values)

- Inappropriate response to emergency/medical problems
- Inappropriate dress for weather
- Does not respect own limitations
- Declining medical recommendations