

The Inevitable Hospital Stay Learning Kit

Answer Key

1. Approximately what percent of people living with mid-to-late-stage dementia re-hospitalized or visit emergency rooms each year?
 - a. 25%
 - b. 50%**
 - c. 75%
 - d. 100%

2. Which of the following are common problems encountered in many hospitals for people living with dementia and their families?
 - a. Assumptions made at admission regarding a baseline compared to current status.
 - b. Quick efforts to control behaviors with medications that alter alertness and responsiveness without careful evaluation of meaning of the behaviors.
 - c. Assumptions about causation based on previous encounters with people living with dementia, rather than a careful assessment of the current situation and person.
 - d. All of the above.**

3. Which of the following are common problems encountered in many hospitals by staff and caregivers when working with people living with dementia and their families?
 - a. Lack of timely and accurate documentation providing specifics about baseline and history of current changes or the absence of a care partner who is knowledgeable about the person and situation and can communicate that information in a medical-friendly manner.
 - b. Lack of specific training on communicating with someone living with dementia in mid- to late-stage or with someone in early stage with an acute episode of delirium for information gathering and decision making.
 - c. Inadequate environmental supports to provide for safer options when someone is distressed and unable to use cognitive abilities to tolerate unfamiliar and potential hazardous situations.
 - d. All of the above.**

4. Which of the following is needed in order to have medical personnel share information with you about the condition of the person living with dementia?
 - a. An official and completed durable Health Care POA.**
 - b. DNR order in the chart.
 - c. A copy of a living will.
 - d. A close relationship (marriage or blood-related ties) to the person.

5. Which of the following is the most likely cause in the later stages of dementia when a person becomes suddenly *different* - their behavior dramatically and quickly changes?
 - a. It is almost always a bladder infection or UTI
 - b. It is probably just an indication that they are moving into a worsening state of their dementia.
 - c. It is probably because of dehydration.
 - d. It is probably an acute medical condition that should be immediately identified and investigated.

6. In the later stages of dementia, what is the greatest challenge families and health professionals will face?
 - a. Determining what steps are the right steps for this person, given all that is happening combined with their previous expressed desires about quality of life, and risks versus benefits of possible interventions to treat.
 - b. Getting medical professionals to provide information about what is possible to preserve life for this person.
 - c. Deciding whether or not to administer CPR.
 - d. Getting everyone to agree to a course of action, once the person's previous decisions and preferences are reviewed and discussed.

7. Which of the following is true:
 - a. Historically, people living with dementia have been overmedicated with anti-psychotics or anti-anxiety medications following surgical procedures.
 - b. Since people living with dementia in the later stages don't feel pain as much, they typically need much less pain medication.
 - c. Since people living with Lewy Body Dementia and later stage Alzheimers rarely respond poorly to medications to control hallucinations and agitation, those medications are typically useful in hospital stays due to minimal side effect profiles in these situations.

8. What should be considered prior to taking a person living with later stage dementia to an emergency room or hospital setting?
 - a. What is the risk versus benefit of doing so, for this person in this situation?
 - b. What are the advance directives that have been developed for this person and their supporters?
 - c. Can the right assessment and care be delivered in a more friendly, functional, forgiving, and familiar setting?
 - d. Who can be with the person during the process to ensure the person is being cared for, listened to, and accurately assessed?
 - e. All of the above.

9. What might be causing a person in mid-stage dementia to not eat a meal that is served on a bedside table placed in front of them while they are seated with the head of the bed elevated?
- a. Use of social vision – not task vision – never saw it.
 - b. Probably not hungry.
 - c. Unable to figure out that something is under the cover and unable to figure out how to open condiments and utensils.
 - d. Just interested in the sweets, so the rest is not of interest.
 - e. A & C
 - f. C & B