

## Possible Indicators of Declining Cognition – Updated 12/2016

<b>Adaptation</b>	
Suicidal	Client tearful about pet passing years ago
Refuses to leave home / go outside	Not getting along with new caregiver
Calling CM daily after receiving notice of reassessment	Talking over and over about auto accident from 10 years ago
Client has packed to 'go home'	Stuck on a thought – perseverating
Asks same question over and over again	Severe PTSD
Service plan describes agitation	Requires constant reassurance
Gets fixated	Following a change, client isolates and withdrawals
Lack of motivation – sleeps or cries all day	Client is inflexible. 'My way or no way'.
Repeated continual complaints regarding staff, that have been proven to be untrue	Not able to sleep in bed where she slept with deceased spouse
Depression	Fixated on moving to CA

<b>Awareness</b>	
Thinks someone is living in her attic	Garbage stacked around them
Soiled incontinence pads in living room	Washing and trying to reuse incontinence briefs
Coming to assessment and they are only in underwear	Getting evicted due to hoarding but thinks the landlord hates her
Thinks she's an employee of RCF not a resident	Not knowing what clothing to wear due to weather conditions
Thinking their diabetes will go away	Feces on the floor
Stove on and opened to heat home	Animals look unhealthy and/or hungry
Client wearing soiled clothing	Unable to answer simple questions
Out in snow without clothes/shoes on	Tries to put shirt on as pants
Believes CM is her son/daughter	Unable to tell the difference between junk mail and bills
Wakes up to get ready for work even though they haven't worked in years	Unaware of needs. Cancels HCW and doesn't understand why they're there
Repeatedly wears the same clothes	

<b>Judgment</b>	
Not dressing for the type of weather	Saying they take more insulin when they don't feel good
Moldy food but they want to keep it	Climbing balcony to the upstairs apartment with stranger

Paying the same bill multiple times	Lots of unopened mail
Eats cat food as a regular part of their diet	Doesn't understand cause and effect of taking certain meds
Taking a bath without help knowing they can't get out unless they have help	Overspending – gives away money
Allows homeless person/stranger into their home	Doesn't stick to diabetic diet/doesn't understand
Doesn't understand or know what medications they are taking	Refuses to take medications
Sits in the dark	Sits in soiled clothing
Lives in home with holes in roof with no heat	Believes she is able to manage diabetes, but is unable to verbalize the steps taken
Purchases candy instead of medication	Attempts to ambulate although client is non-weight bearing with serious fracture

<b>Memory</b>	
Note on door – 'wallet, keys, wife'	Pharmacy pre-organized meds but still missing doses
Meal times posted for facility resident	Not knowing where they were born
Saying family never visit – they were there that day	Asking name of current president
Forgetting participation in an activity	Forgot what they were saying mid-sentence repeatedly
Convinced it was 1970 something	Can't find dining room in ALF
Calling family member by another name	Unable to recall if they ate
Leaves the stove on	Stove knobs have been removed
Repeats same story over and over again	Can't point to #'s on phone to dial 911
Pays same bill 4 x's during home visit	Cannot remember the last time they bathed
Misses appointments	Unable to follow conversation easily
Can't exit building in an emergency	Has no idea when meal times are
Can't remember why they're in the hospital	Can't remember if they've paid they're bills
Asks same question several times	Can't remember names of HCWs

<b>Orientation</b>	
Getting up in middle of the night to go to work (a.m. vs. p.m.)	Asking staff if he can go to work
Client wants to show you something in the garage, but he lives in an ALF	Unable to introduce their son/daughter by name
Hallucinations	Not knowing where they live

Thinking they hear their baby crying	Talking about deceased family member as though they are still alive
Talking as if a past era is current	Pictures with names on the wall
Cleans son's room for visit, but he passed away 30 years ago	No idea of day, week, year or who CM is
Asks what is for breakfast at 5 p.m.	Asks to go to church at midnight
Calls family or HCW at all times of the night	Up and dressed in middle of night ready to go to the store
Sees people in her room that are not there	Thinks it's 1921
Thinks they own the facility and try hiring/firing staff and other residents	Unable to recognize family members
Late afternoon insists on going home, so her mother doesn't worry about her	Thinks HCW is deceased spouse
Thinks they live in another country	Doesn't know they're in the hospital or why

### Danger to Self or Others

Refusing care	Stashing medications
No contact with family	Diabetic refusing to stop eating candy
Hitting staff, other residents and others appear to be afraid of him	Have received multiple move out notices
Multiple weapons in their home	Hollering in middle of the night
HCW won't drive client/client opens car door while moving	Aggressive to family
Verbally abusive	Behavior support plan in file
Throws stuff at staff or other residents	Grabs staff inappropriately
Marks/cuts on body	Tries hitting people while ambulating in their power chair
Cannot have a roommate	Signs of alarming behaviors
Smokes cigarettes while on oxygen	Picks at sores or scratches causing bleeding

### Demands on Others

Yells at staff because they won't clean out litter box	Notes on wall or door
Can't keep roommates	Multiple visits to the hospital
Asks for something every hour	No close friends or family
Verbally and/or physically combative	Calls CM multiple times a day
Multiple shut-off / eviction notices	Accuses staff of stealing from her and going into her room when she's gone
Calls HCW all times of the day/night	Asking HCW to do tasks not appropriate

Care plan changes constantly	Repetitive questions demanding immediate answers
Constant complaining	Yells for assistance even when they know caregiver is helping another resident
Throws a fit when caregiver is not immediately available to them	Obsesses about pain meds and calls Ombudsman when pills are 1 minute late
Yells and cries out every 15 minutes for comfort/reassurance	Calls family multiple times a day requesting the same thing
Calls HCW requesting ride on their days off	Pushes help button multiple times a night for no apparent reason

<b>Wandering</b>	
Locks on interior doors	Block of wood jamming sliding glass door
Client sits by door and attempts to leave each time someone opens the door	Keeps eloping from AFH, goes down road and has no idea where he's going
Wanders into other resident rooms	Kept driving in care and not able to find way home
Police reports of picking client up in community	Alarms on doors
Found in community lost	Wearing ID bracelet with address
Exit seeking	Wearing a tracking device
Client tries to leave with CM	Signs of sundowners
Can't find their room	Walks out the door and starts walking 'home'
Walks aimlessly in large circle for long periods of time	Rearranges things and HCW is unable to find things the next day
Wanders into other resident's rooms	Walks into rooms and cannot remember why they were in there