

NSM Regional Standard Responsive Behaviours with Cognitive Impairment Definitions

To be used for purposes of documentation and other communication processes for individuals with cognitive impairment and responsive behaviours.

Responsive Behaviour	Definition
Hitting	Physical contact with self or others , striking, pinching banging. Physical contact with objects , striking, banging furniture, etc.
Kicking	Striking with feet at people or objects
Biting/Scratching	Chomping, gnashing, gnawing, either other people or self – clawing, scraping with fingernails either other people or self
Destroying Property	Shredding, ripping, breaking, stomping on something
Throwing Objects	Hurling objects, violently tossing objects up in air, tipping of surfaces, flinging, dumping food, smearing feces.
Swearing	Use of obscenity, profanity. Consider exclusion if part of individual's baseline vocabulary – clinical judgment, look to intention.
Rummaging	Searching a place or area by moving around, turning over, or looking through contents. Patient may be looking for something for something real or is not able to remember. Patient may be trying to organize, or just attempting to stay busy.
Threatening	Action either verbal or physical which intimidates others. Identify risk and if homicidal follow protocol.
Disruptive Vocalizations	Yelling/Screaming - Shouting, piercing howl, making loud shrills. Repetitive calling out or making strange noises
Resistance to Care	Verbal or physical resistance to any care activity. (E.g. verbally refusing care, pushing caregiver away, or scratching caregiver). Does not include instances where the capable patient has made an informed choice not to follow a course of treatment.
Repetition	Repeating the same sentence or question or action (i.e. banging) one right after the other.
Sexually Responsive	Making verbal sexual advances – sexual propositions, sexual innuendo, or “dirty” talk. Making physical sexual advances – touching a person in an inappropriate sexual way, rubbing genital area, exposing genitalia and/or public masturbation. Taking off clothing in public or when it is inappropriate.
Wandering	Locomotion with no discernible, rational purpose.
Exit Seeking	When a patient who is cognitively, physically, mentally, emotionally, and/or chemically impaired specifically seeks to leave the facility.
General Restlessness	Fidgeting, always moving around in seat, getting up and sitting down, inability to sit still. Often referred to as agitated.
Grabbing onto / Reaching out	To take or hold onto something/someone (or attempt to take hold of) in a quick and informal way. May include grasp reflex (palm stimulation leads to a grasp) or attempt to strangle.

References:

Behavioural Supports Ontario Consultative Work Group. (Jan 23, 2015). BSO Strategy and Measurement of LTCH Residents.

Hamilton, P., Harris, D., Le Clair, K. & Collins, J. (2010). “Putting the P.I.E.C.E.S. Together” A Learning Resource for Providers Caring for Older Adults with Complex Physical and cognitive/Mental Health Needs and Behavioural Changes. 6th Edition (R). Printed in Canada.

NSM Specialized Geriatric Services Program

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