

Acute Decompensation Protocol for the Older Adult

When something happens to cause a person who has been in a state of relative equilibrium, however fragile, to deteriorate physically, mentally or both. The cause can be physical, psychosocial or environmental.

Assessment

In order to understand the cause of the decompensation, assess individuals under the following categories:

*P.I.E.C.E.S. Framework

Physical: History of illness, drugs, delirium, pain, screen for reversible causes such as constipation, dehydration, infection and polypharmacy

Intellectual: Previous family history of change, orientation, memory, abstraction, insight, dementia

Emotional: Psychiatric history, psychosis, depression, anxiety, personality disorder

Capabilities: Activities of daily living, IADL, vision, hearing

Environment: Current living situation, physical environment

Social System: Supports, family, agencies, friends, neighbours

*Risks

Roaming

Wandering → safety of environment

Imminent risk → Fire

→ Falls

→ Frailty

→ Firearms

Suicide

Kinship/Elder abuse

Caregiver burden, risk to others

Safe Driving, Self Neglect, Substance abuse

Is the client certifiable under the Mental Health Act

1) Risk to self

2) Risk to others

3) Imminent danger

Capacity

- Presumption of capacity (competency)

- Regulated Health Professionals:

Assess: 1) Understanding &
2) Appreciation of
3) Consequences of
decision

Determine

Capacity for: 1) Treatment Decisions

2) Personal Care

3) Finances

Action Referral Options

Primary Care:

General Practitioner, Nurse Practitioner, Advance Practice Nurse, Social Work, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Recreation, Psychology, Dietary, Nursing

Secondary Care:

Hospital Specialist, Internal Medicine, Geriatric Psychiatry, Geriatric Medicine

Tertiary Care:

Niagara Geriatric Mental Health Outreach Program, Psychogeriatric Resource Consultant, Geriatric Assessment Program, Public Health – Community Mental Health – Geriatric Intensive Team

Risk

911, Justice of the Peace, Firefighters, General Practitioner, Psychiatrist, Niagara Regional Police, Ministry of Transportation, Gatekeepers, Public Health – Injury Substance Abuse & Prevention Program

Capacity Issues

If Incapable the Evaluator of capacity will contact:

- Guardian
- Power of Attorney
- Substitute Decision Maker
- Public Guardian and Trustee's Office

If questionable capacity: Capacity Assessment, Ministry of the Attorney General, Capacity Assessors

Further Support : For suggested support agencies, see reverse

SUGGESTED SUPPORT AGENCIES

For further information see Information Niagara website www.informationniagara.com or contact (905) 682-6611

Community	Telephone No.	Health	Telephone No.
Alzheimer Society	(905) 687-3914	Community Care Access Centre - In-Home Services - Long Term Care Facility Placement - Information and Referral	(905) 684-9441
Central Park Lodges Rapid Response Program Transitional Care – Lundy Manor The Loyalist	(905) 708-8845 (24 hr hotline)		
Gatekeepers	(905) 684-0968	Geriatric Assessment Program	(905) 358-4937
Meals on Wheels - St. Catharines/Thorold - Niagara Falls/NOTL - Port Colborne/Wainfleet - Fort Erie - Welland/Pelham - West Niagara	(905) 682-0333/1-866-283-1931 (905) 356-7548 (905) 835-1581 (905) 871-9366 (905) 788-3181 (905) 563-9501	Geriatric Mental Health Outreach Program Psychogeriatric Resource Consultants	(905) 704-4068
		Niagara Drug & Alcohol Services (NADAS) Alcohol Drug Treatment Centre (Niagara)	(905) 684-1183 (905) 685-5425
Niagara Regional Lifeline	(905) 935-4304	Niagara Health System – Crisis Nurse St. Catharines Niagara Falls Welland Niagara-on-the-Lake	(905)684-7271 ext. 3230 (905) 358-0171 ext. 3803 (905) 732-6111 ext. 3407 (905) 468-4284 ext. 7142
Respite Companion	(905) 984-2623		
Seniors Community Support	(905) 984-2630	Regional Niagara Public Health Department (Community Mental Health Team), (Geriatric Intensive Team)	(905) 688-3762
Victim's Crisis Support	(905) 688-4111, ext. 4492		
Legal	Telephone No.	<p>Prepared by : Dementia Care Network, Sub Group of The Niagara Specialized Healthcare for the Elderly Network Group</p> <p>Contact Person: Ann Tassonyi, Psychogeriatric Resource Consultant (905) 704-4068 asnr_at@iaw.com</p>	
Advocacy Centre for the Elderly	(416) 598-2656		
Justice of the Peace - St. Catharines - Niagara Falls - Welland	(905) 988-6200 (905) 371-8988 (905) 735-0010		
Ministry of the Attorney General	(416) 327-6766		
Public Guardian & Trustee	(905) 546-8830 1-800-891-0502		

Network Profile
Niagara Dementia Care Network
Sub Group of the Niagara Specialized Health Care for the Elderly Network
(NSHCEN)

The Dementia Care Network (DCN) was developed in April 2002 as part of the implementation of Ontario's Strategy for Alzheimer Disease and Related Dementias, Strategy Number 9.

PURPOSE

To serve as a forum for individuals and resources to collaborate for the purpose of improving and developing a continuum of care for individuals with dementia, their families and caregivers. The focus will be on establishing priorities and action plans aimed at improving the system of care required by those with dementia, their families and caregivers.

The DCN's Initial Project is to develop awareness of ACUTE DECOMPENSATION for the population of the Niagara Region.

GOALS

- a) enhance service provider awareness of acute decompensation
- b) provide education regarding best practice guidelines
- c) develop protocols for assessment and management
- d) strengthen linkages in the community
- e) improve access to appropriate resources
- f) decrease incidence of acute decompensation through preventative measures

BACKGROUND

NSHCEN evolved from the work of the Niagara District Health Council's Specialized Health Services for the Elderly Task force in 1999. NSHCEN was developed to formalize and improve upon existing relationships and to act as a vehicle to facilitate individuals and resources coming together for the purpose of improving the system of care for all elderly persons, improving coordination and access to services.

For more information contact:
Ann Tassonyi 906-704-4068
Co-Chair, Dementia Care Network

Revised: September 17, 2003

DEMENTIA CARE NETWORK Current Membership

ORGANIZATION & ADDRESS	PHONE	FAX
Seniors Community Programs	905-984-2630	905-984-6409
Alzheimer Society of Niagara	905-687-3914	905-687-9952
Chateau Gardens	905- 468-2111	905-468-4463
Niagara District Health Council	905-682-7000	905-682-7772
Niagara Health System Niagara on the Lake site	905-468-4284	905-468-7690
Respite Companion Program	905-984-2623	905-984-6409
Niagara Health System Geriatric Assessment Program	905-358-4937 ext. 3011	905-358-4972
Niagara Regional Police	905-688-4111	905-682-6445
Victorian Order of Nurses	905-641-1077	905-641-5530
Geriatric Mental Health Outreach Program	905-704-4068	905-704-4072
Community Care Access Centre Niagara Intake and Referral	905-684-9441	905-684-3547
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care	905-546-8248	905-546-8255
Heidehof, Supportive Housing	905-935-0590 ext. 239	905-934-8906
Orchards Retirement Residence Representative of ORCA	905-562-7357	905-562-3051
AIDS Niagara Supportive Housing	905-688-5670	905-688-9915