Behavioural and Psychological symptoms in Dementia (BPSD)

- Many people with various forms of dementia develop behavioural issues such as physical or verbal aggression, agitation, wandering, apathy, calling out etc.
- Patients in residential care facilities with BPSD will be visited in the facility by a geriatrician
- Patients living at home can be seen via a domiciliary visit through the Community Geriatric Service (providing they live within the SALHN area)

Information Required

- Patient demography information and contact
- Main concern / issue
- Current medication list
- Other co-morbidities
- Named referral (for nursing home referral)
- Referring doctor’s name and provider number
- Date of referral
- Priority
- Place of residence (eg residential facility, house – please indicate whether the person is living alone)

Investigations Required

- FBE, EUC, LFTS, Ca++, TFTs, B12, folate, CRP
- Urine MC&S
- Results of previous CT head (if available)

Fax Referrals to

- Nursing Home residents: “Attention Dr Katherine Flynn” 4th Generation Outpatient Clinics, Flinders Medical Centre
  Fax: (08) 8404 2263
- Community residents: Community Geriatric Service
  Fax: (08) 8204 4627

Red Flags

- Severe behavioural disturbance associated with dementia (eg physical violence, severe agitation)
- Escalating doses of antipsychotics or benzodiazepines to manage behaviour
- Significant risk to safety of patient, staff or family
- Community patient living alone

Suggested GP Management

- Screening bloods / MSSU looking for potential cause of delirium
- Trial of low dose analgesia or citalopram / escitalopram (evidence for patients with dementia and agitation)
- Trial low dose risperidone (discuss risks & benefits with family)
- Referral to Dementia Behavioural Management Advisory Service (DBMAS) through Dementia Support Australia (see clinical resources)
- Clear documentation by Nursing Home staff (or family) of behaviours of concern and potential triggers
- Urgent referral

Clinical Resources

- Dementia Behaviour Management Advisory Service 1800 699799 (24 hours)

General Information to assist with referrals and the and Referral templates for FMC are available to download from the SALHN Outpatient Services website www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/SALHNoutpatients