



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)
- <https://www.dementia.com.au/>

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

Version	Date from	Date to	Amendment
1.0	September 2014	September 2016	Original
2.0	June 2018	June 2020	Updated contact details