

Recognizing the Signs: When to Reach Out for Support Services & How to Know the Time is Right

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Identifying Characteristics of Late-Stage Dementia



Word Comprehension and Speech have stopped

Falls are frequent: Difficulty moving backwards

Mostly immobile– Hard to Connect

Ruled by reflexes

React to touch

Limited eye contact or Following with eyes

Unmet needs may cause distress

Often Still and Quiet

Know what is familiar

Primitive reflexes have taken over: difficulty swallowing

Communication and Connection

**6 Tips to
Improve
Communication**

Greet by
First Name

Position
Yourself in
Visual Field

Stay Still

Make
Contact
Outside
Intimate
Zone

Use Visuals

Don't Rush

Making a Connection

Moments of connection take time and will be short

Retain rhythm: may be able to sing, hum, pray and sway

Tips for Making Connection

One on One activities

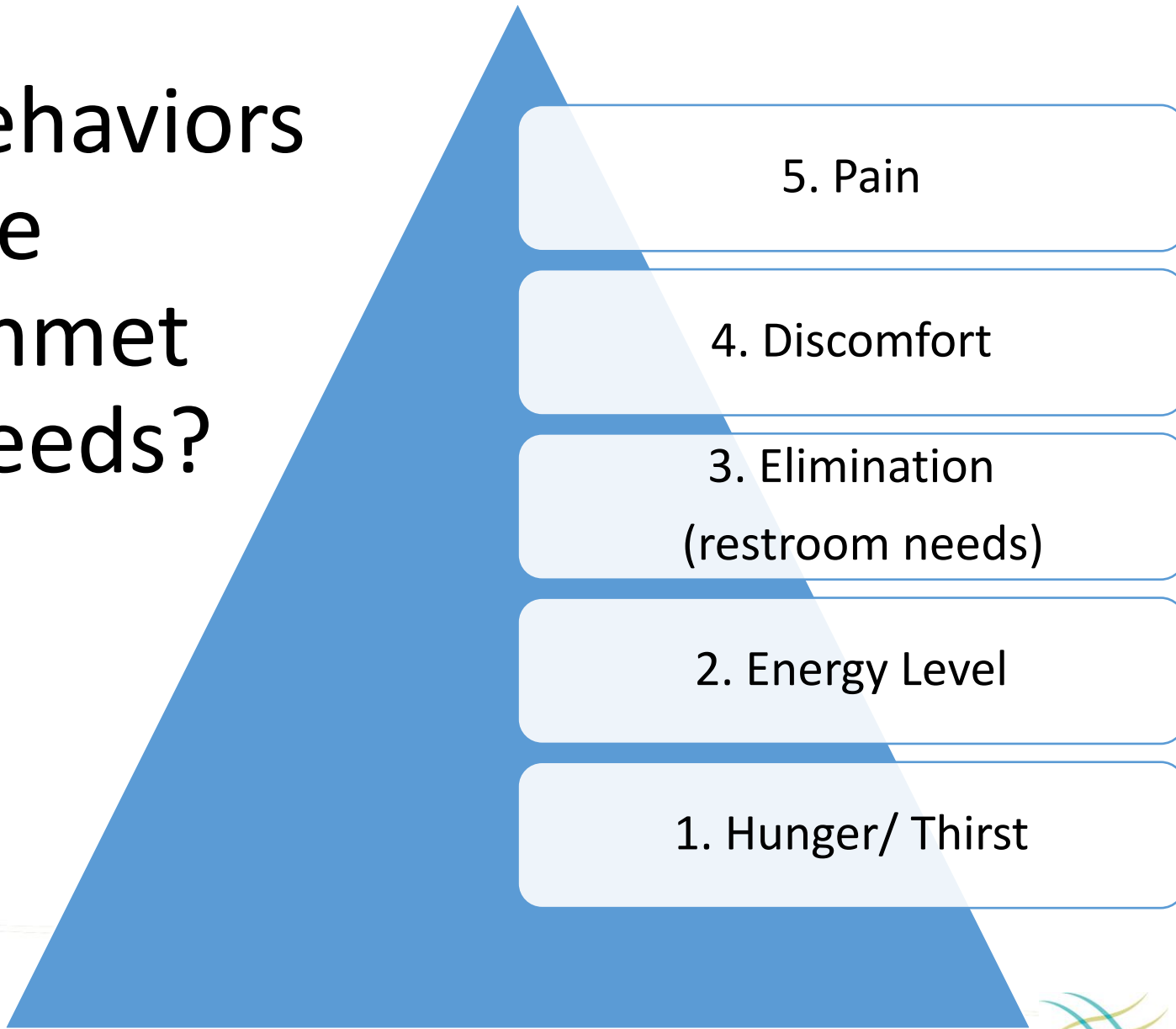
Pray aloud with rosary in their hands

Read aloud

Hold hands

Interpreting Behaviors

Behaviors
are
Unmet
Needs?





Sensory Stimulation

Consider the Surroundings

Mealtime



- Small dishes
- One item at a time
- Decrease distraction
- Hand under hand
- Encourage with verbal and visual cues
- Keep visual attention on food

6 Types of Support Services

When is the Right Time for Adult Day Health?

Diagnosis of Dementia



Needing more help with bathing,
dressing, toileting, feeding



Needing help keeping active



Needing a safe environment to
socialize in



The caregiver needs time off from
attending to their loved one



They cannot be left alone

When is the Right Time for Assisted Living?

Diagnosis of Dementia



Unsafe to live alone



Care needs become burdensome to
the caregiver



Loved one or caregiver have physical
limitations of movement



Caregiver cannot provide for all
needs but does not have additional
help

When is the Right Time for Long-Term Care?



When is the Right Time for Home Care?

Diagnosis of serious illness



Receiving Treatment



Needing help at home with
medication management



Needing Physical therapy,
Occupational therapy or Speech
Therapy

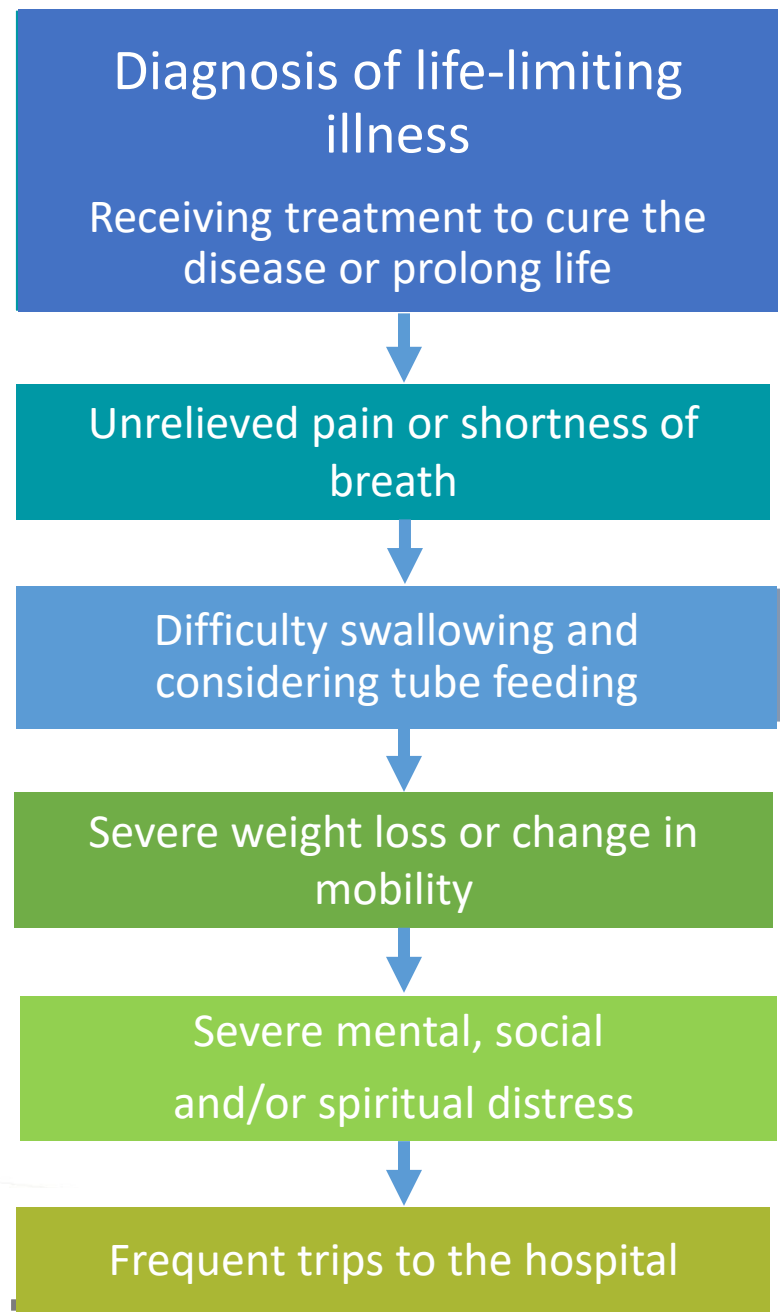


Repeated complications



Frequent trips to the hospital

When is the Right Time for Palliative Care?



When is the Right Time for Hospice Care?

Diagnosis of a
life-limiting
illness

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graph TD; A[Diagnosis of a life-limiting illness] --> B[Treatment to cure the disease or prolong life has stopped]; B --> C[Prognosis of 6 months of less];
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Treatment to cure the
disease or prolong life has
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