

Identification Tool for Dementia

Resident Name: _____ Person Interviewed: _____ Date: _____

Does the resident have difficulty with any of the activities listed below?

___ 1. **Learning and retaining new information.** Is more repetitive; has trouble remembering recent conversations, events, appointments; frequently misplaces objects.

___ 2. **Difficulty performing familiar tasks.** People with dementia often find it hard to complete everyday tasks that are so familiar we usually do not think about how to do them. A person with Alzheimer’s may not know the steps for preparing a meal, using a household appliance, or participating in a lifelong hobby

___ 3. **Handling complex tasks.** Has trouble following a complex train of thought or performing tasks that require many steps, such as balancing a checkbook or cooking a meal.

___ 4. **Reasoning ability.** Is unable to respond with a reasonable plan to problems at work or home, such as knowing what to do if the bathroom is flooded; shows uncharacteristic disregard for rules of social conduct.

___ 5. **Sense of direction.** Has trouble driving, organizing objects around the house, finding his or her way around familiar places.

___ 6. **Disorientation to time and place.** It’s normal to forget the day of the week or where you’re going. But people with Alzheimer’s disease can become lost on their own street, forget where they are and how they got there, and not know how to get back home.

___ 7. **Poor or decreased judgment.** No one has perfect judgment all of the time. Those with Alzheimer’s may dress without regard to the weather, wearing several shirts or blouses on a warm day or very little clothing in cold weather. Individuals with dementia often show poor judgment about money, giving away large amounts of money to telemarketers or paying for home repairs or products they don’t need.

___ 8. **Language.** Has increasing difficulty with finding the words to express what he or she wants to say and with following conversations.

___ 9. **Behavior.**

___ Appears more passive and less responsive,

___ Is more irritable than usual,

___ Is more suspicious than usual,

___ Misinterprets visual or auditory stimuli.

___ Rapid mood swings—from calm to tears to anger—for no apparent reason

___ Does the resident have any behaviors that concern or worry you?

___ Does the resident see things or hear voices that aren’t there?

___ Does the resident show signs of aggression towards family or strangers?

___ Does the resident wander aimlessly, possibly looking for people or things that are not appropriate to be there?

___ Do the behaviors peak in the late afternoon?

___ 10. **Misplacing things.** Anyone can temporarily misplace a wallet or key. A person with Alzheimer’s disease may put things in unusual places: an iron in the freezer or a wristwatch in the sugar bowl.

___ 11. **Changes in personality.** People’s personalities ordinarily change somewhat with age. But a person with Alzheimer’s disease can change a lot, becoming extremely confused, suspicious, fearful, or dependent on a family member.

___ 12. **Sleep** Does the resident sleep through the night? Any concerns about the night time hours?

___ 13. **Changes in eating or swallowing.** Such as swallowing disturbance, appetite change, food preferences, eating habits or other eating behaviors.

Summary: _____

Signature /Title _____ Date _____