

# Care Giver Fact Sheet



<b>Stages of Alzheimer's</b>		
Stage 1	<b>No Impairment</b>	Disease not detectable and no symptoms are present.
Stage 2	<b>Very Mild Decline</b>	Minor memory problems may be noticed but is hard to distinguish between normal age-related memory loss. Unlikely to be identified by physician or loved ones
Stage 3	<b>Mild Decline</b>	Cognitive problems are likely to be noticed. Memory tests will reflect poor performance and the physician will be able to identify impaired cognitive function.
Stage 4	<b>Moderate Decline</b>	Symptoms are very apparent such as difficulty with very short-term memory (food eaten at breakfast), unable to perform simple arithmetic, and unable to pay bills.
Stage 5	<b>Moderately Severe Decline</b>	Experience need for help with normal day-to-fay activities such as dressing remembering their phone number, wandering or confusion
Stage 6	<b>Severe Decline</b>	Need constant supervision and may require professional care. They experience confusion with the environment or surroundings. Loss of bowel and bladder control is common.
Stage 7	<b>Very Severe Decline</b>	Since AD is a terminal disease those in this stage are nearing death. They lose the ability to communicate or respond to the environment. They need total care.

<b>Advanced Dementia – Worsening of Symptoms</b>	
<b>Memory loss</b>	Where the individual does not recognize family and friends,
<b>Communication issues</b>	May lose the ability to talk at all,
<b>Mobility problems</b>	Become less mobile and may become confined to wheelchair or bed
<b>Behavior issues (neuropsychological symptoms)</b>	These include increased agitation, depression, aggression, anxiety or hallucinations and delusions
<b>Incontinence problems</b>	Loss of control of bowel and bladder
<b>Weight loss and lack of appetite</b>	Some experience difficulty chewing and swallowing which can lead to other issues such as choking, aspirations etc

<b>Neuropsychiatric Symptoms (NPS) (Behaviors)</b>	
<b>Apathy</b>	Absence or suppression of passion, emotion, or excitement; lack of interest in or concern for things that others find moving or exciting
<b>Aggression,</b>	The action or an act of attacking without provocation.
<b>Psychosis:</b>	A severe mental disorder in which thought and emotions are so impaired that contact is lost with external reality. (hallucinations/delusions)

<b>Sleep disturbances</b>	Involve <b>problems</b> with the quality, timing, and amount of <b>sleep</b> , which result in daytime distress and <b>impairment</b> in functioning
<b>Agitation</b>	Excessive physical movement and verbal activity and can include restlessness, pacing, verbal aggression, combativeness, calling out and crying, and wandering
<b>Vocalizations</b>	Nonaggressive behaviors such as continuous talking and complaining and aggressive behaviors such as screaming and abusive language
<b>Disinhibition</b>	A loss of inhibition, a lack of restraint, disregard for social convention, impulsiveness, poor safety awareness, an inability to stop strong responses, desires, or emotions.
<b>Pseudobulbar Affect (PBA)</b>	Can be found in any underlying neurologic disorder such as Alzheimer's Disease (AD), Parkinson's Disease, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) etc. It consists of inappropriate, uncontrollable, exaggerated laughing or crying outbursts, with or without reason or trigger..