



What are non-cognitive symptoms of dementia?

Non-cognitive symptoms associated with dementia include psychosis (delusions, hallucinations), mood disturbances (depression, euphoria, irritability, anxiety), personality changes (disinhibition, apathy), agitation, aggression, altered sexual behaviour, changed sleep patterns, and appetite disturbances.

Behavioural symptoms

Affective symptoms

Psychotic symptoms



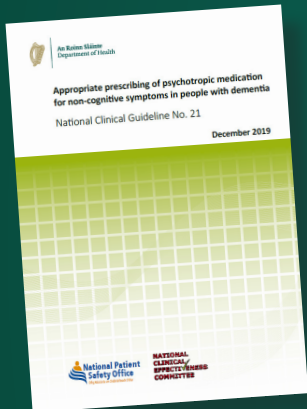
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Recommendation 1 of National Clinical Guideline No. 21:

Prior to considering any psychotropic medication in a person with dementia, a comprehensive assessment should be performed, by an appropriately trained healthcare professional.

A comprehensive assessment should include: a review of medical history and mental health history (including depression) and medication history; physical examination, including consideration of possible delirium, or undetected pain or discomfort (with an appropriate assessment of same); assessment of the severity, type, frequency, pattern and timing of symptoms, and other potentially contributory or comorbid factors.



Scan the code to
access National
Clinical Guideline
No. 21

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on comprehensive
assessment





Recommendation 2 of National Clinical Guideline No. 21:

Non-pharmacological interventions should be used initially to treat non-cognitive symptoms in a person with dementia, unless there is severe distress, or an identifiable risk of harm to the person and/or others.

Non-pharmacological interventions support and enable a person with dementia to manage their symptoms and enhance their quality of life.



Scan the code to access a guidance document on non-pharmacological interventions



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