Evidence Based Treatment of Behavioral Symptoms of Dementia (BSD)

New onset, persistent, recurrent agitated, and/or aggressive

Dementia Diagnosis

Elicit history of Behavioral changes

Rule out medical etiology

- Review Medications:
  - New meds
  - Compliance
  - Adherence
  - Drug interactions
  - AChE-I

- Acute Illness
- And/or
- Exacerbation of
- Chronic illness

- Pain
- Delirium
- Depression/
  anxiety

- Hallucinations,
  Delusions?

- Review Beers &
  STOPP criteria

Rule out psychosocial changes

- Change in
  environment
- Loss
- Change
  ADLs
- IADLs
- Lack of
caregiver
  support
- Isolation

Define Behaviors

Is behavior a danger to self or others?
Is behavior disturbing?

Harmful, Dangerous Behaviors

Optimize environmental, behavioral and non-pharmacologic interventions

Improved behavior

- Yes
- No

Initiate non-antipsychotic drugs

Improved behavior

- Yes
- No

Initiate treatment with atypical antipsychotic drug at lowest therapeutic dose

Monitor & document for effectiveness, side effects and changes in medical condition

Immediate Corrective Action

Prior to starting treatment,
(1) document pretreatment status of all active medical conditions;
(2) assess risk factors for stroke, myocardial infarction, and aspiration pneumonia or other infection; and
(3) discuss risk factors and treatment options with responsible family member or guardian and document in chart

- Yes
- No

Refer for Dementia Evaluation, if Positive

Stage Dementia

- Initiate FDA approved memory meds as appropriate

Is behavior a danger to self or others?

- NOT harmful, Not dangerous/sequela of disease
  (i.e. self talk, repetition, automatic speech, problem vocalization, visual misperceptions)

- Optimize environmental, behavioral & non-pharmacologic interventions

- Reassess & document response to interventions

Yes

Improved behavior

- Initiate non-antipsychotic drugs

No

Yes

Yes

No

No

Improved behavior

- Yes
- No

Improvement

- Yes
- No

Initiate treatment with atypical antipsychotic drug at lowest therapeutic dose

Monitor & document the need for continued medication and initiate tapering protocol

- Yes
- No

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