

## **Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia (BPSD) Response to Medications<sup>1</sup>**

Not all behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia are likely to respond to medications. These behaviours may respond effectively to non-pharmacological interventions that are person-centred and tailored to the individual. For more information on non-pharmacological interventions, see Part I Care Planning/Evaluation.

<b>Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms That Are Not Likely to Respond to Medication</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wandering</li> <li>• Vocally disruptive behaviour</li> <li>• Hiding &amp; hoarding</li> <li>• Repetitive activity</li> <li>• Inappropriate voiding</li> <li>• Inappropriate dressing/undressing</li> <li>• Tugging at seatbelts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eating inedible objects</li> <li>• Pushing wheel chair bound residents</li> <li>• Resistiveness to care **</li> </ul> <p><i>Note that <b>severe</b> resistiveness to care that presents as slapping, kicking, hitting, biting, and punching <b>may</b> respond to medication.</i></p>

**\*\*Resistiveness to care** can be described as “the repertoire of behaviors with which persons with dementia withstand or oppose the efforts of a caregiver”<sup>2</sup>.

<b>Resistiveness to Care Scale</b>		
<b>Rating</b>	<b>Example Behaviours</b>	
Rating 0: No resistiveness		
Rating 1: Mild resistiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indifference</li> <li>• Withdrawal</li> <li>• Pulling back</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turning or walking away</li> <li>• Refusing to open the mouth</li> <li>• Gentle verbal non-acceptance</li> </ul>
Rating 2: Moderate resistiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voluntary rigidity</li> <li>• Pushing or grabbing</li> <li>• Holding onto the chair, bed or hand-rail</li> <li>• Spitting out food or medication</li> <li>• Requiring repeated instruction or distraction</li> <li>• Swearing or expressing angry non-compliance</li> <li>• Pulling away from staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tightening limbs</li> <li>• Stiffening the body</li> <li>• Deliberately ceasing or refusing to weight bear during care</li> <li>• Waving arms and legs</li> <li>• Verbally objecting to care using words and/or sounds</li> </ul>
Rating 3: Severe Resistiveness:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slapping</li> <li>• Kicking</li> <li>• Hitting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biting</li> <li>• Punching</li> <li>• Deliberately thwarting care.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from work by Dr. Carol Ward, Dr. Elisabeth Drance and the BPSD Best Practice Guidelines

<sup>2</sup> Mahoney EK, Hurley AC, Volicer L, Bell M, Gianotis P, Hartshorn M, Lane P, Lesperance R, MacDonald S, Novakoff L, et al.: Development and testing of the Resistiveness to Care Scale. *Res Nurs Health* 1999, 22(1):27-38.