

Workshop: exploring screening and assessment of wandering

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Characteristics of Persons who Wander: Cohen-Mansfield

- ▶ Short term memory problems
- ▶ Repetitive questions
- ▶ Language deficits
- ▶ Orientation
- ▶ Pneumonia
- ▶ Dementia
- ▶ Constipation
- ▶ Expressed sadness or pain
- ▶ Antipsychotic medication

- ▶ less chance where
 - Functional impairment
 - Female

Characteristics of Persons who Wander: Allen-Burge et al

- ▶ Stress and coping patterns
- ▶ Previous work roles
- ▶ Tendencies to seek out familiar places and people for security

Characteristics of Persons who Wander: recurring themes in literature

- ▶ Younger age and higher levels of agitation (anxiety)
- ▶ Higher level of social and leisure activities
- ▶ More stressful life events
- ▶ Less good at coping with crisis and major life events
- ▶ Used walking as a way of dealing with situations and stress
- ▶ Dislike or intolerance of others
- ▶ Lack of fulfilment
- ▶ Influenced by life long habits including work roles
- ▶ Sensory under or overload
- ▶ Changed communication abilities

Hope and Fairburn Classification of Wandering (1990)

- ▶ increased walking - walks distinctly more than normal
- ▶ attempts to leave home - made any attempts to leave the house that have been prevented
- ▶ being brought back home - number of times brought back home
- ▶ trailing - tends to follow right behind carer for a total of at least 30 minutes
- ▶ aimless walking - walked about house, garden, or beyond without an obvious reason

Hope and Fairburn (1990) cont'd

- ▶ pottering - tended to walk around house trying to do household chores or potter around garden trying to do odd jobs
- ▶ inappropriate - walking around the house, garden, or outside for a reason that seems odd to the carer
- ▶ excessive appropriate - walked around house, garden, or outside for an appropriate reason but repeated this several times
- ▶ How helpful is this for your practice?
 - What do you like about this typology
 - ▶ What don't you like about this typology?

Wandering Typology - Algase

- ▶ Direct walking
 - Not wandering (all persons who wander will use direct walking at times)
- ▶ Lapping
- ▶ Pacing
- ▶ Random

Dimensions of Wandering

- ▶ Pattern
- ▶ frequency
- ▶ boundary transgressions
- ▶ navigational deficits
- ▶ temporal deficits

Random Pattern

- ▶ Most common pattern
- ▶ 'appears' aimless
- ▶ influenced by noise, activity and other stimuli
- ▶ frequency and duration increase as CI increases
- ▶ often amenable to distraction or diversion

Lapping pattern

- ▶ Involves a repetitive route or circuit
- ▶ occurs more often early in day or after rest periods
- ▶ Less likely to elope/leave than with random or pacing patterns
- ▶ may be used as a search strategy - although it is ineffectual which can increase frustration
- ▶ less strongly connected to advancing CI
- ▶ A possible link with perseveration

Pacing pattern

- ▶ Least common
- ▶ not connected to level of CI
- ▶ may be as result of anxiety fear or anger
- ▶ Is generally less responsive to distraction especially if left to escalate

Assessment

- ▶ Proactive screening to identify wandering risk where characteristics known to be present
- ▶ Observational recording eg a wandering behaviour daily graphical scale
- ▶ Structured Assessment eg Algase Wandering Scale (AWS)
- ▶ Space and environmental assessment

Daily Graphical Assessment: Algase

- ▶ Gives a visual picture of pattern of wandering, amount and distribution over a day
- ▶ observe for 3 days
- ▶ 5 mins every hour
- ▶ compare graphs/charts over 3 days for pattern

Algase Wandering Scale

- ▶ Only wandering specific tool for assessment
 - Other tools have a wandering as a sub section
- ▶ Use observations and daily graphical recording summary
- ▶ ensure observations cover 24 hrs
- ▶ calculate sub-scales and overall scale
- ▶ use interpretation of scores to make a judgement about risk status

Space and Environmental Assessment

- ▶ Map the setting for environmental dimensions
 - location of exits
 - ▶ turning potential, distractions/window shopping orientating clues
 - foot traffic by staff and visitors
 - attraction of doors (signs knobs opacity)
 - safety risk outside of exits
 - Presence of alarms and other devices
 - Identify how long it would take on average for a person to be noticed as missing
- ▶ Carpets and curtains assessment
- ▶ Flooring assessment
- ▶ Lighting and noise levels
- ▶ Outside space and its use
- ▶ Inside space and its use

Assessment

- ▶ Wandering assessment
- ▶ On going observation and documentation of wandering
- ▶ Discussion with families/others about supervision levels
- ▶ Information for others to assist in finding the person
- ▶ Dress the person if they are going out and for the season
 - Make sure they have appropriate footwear
 - avoid night wear

- ▶ Have a plan for finding the person based on
 - last known sighting
 - Environmental assessment
 - Wandering assessment
 - What is known about the person