Evolving Case –
Dementia/Delirium

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Case

- **Identifying Information:**
  - Mr. Wilson is an 82-year-old, widowed male admitted to your unit for treatment of an ulcer on his right leg. He currently lives alone in his own home.
Report from ER nurse

- Oriented to person, place and time
- Daughter accompanied him to ER but left and plans to return in the morning
- Oriented to person, place and time
- Infected leg wound- received Cefazolin 500mg IV in ER plus 500cc saline
- No broken bones on x-ray
- Multiple petechiae, nausea, mild hand tremor
- "He seems pretty edgy. It was hard to get him to stay still for the antibiotics"

You admit Mr Wilson at 12PM

- His vital signs are:
  - T- 100.4
  - P- 100
  - R- 20
  - B/P 158/90
  - O₂ sat 98%
Mr Wilson 4 hours latter

- Explanation of why he is here
  - "I told you this before when I was talking to you. Remember? When you came to my house the other day. Where is my breakfast?"
- "See her? There she is... hey sis come and get me!!"
- Then he abruptly falls asleep
- 30 MINUTES later he becomes agitated and tries to climb over the bed rails and strikes out aimlessly

Your Response

- Self assessment
  - What are you thinking
  - What are you feeling
  - What are your immediate concerns
    - FOR YOURSELF
    - FOR Mr. Wilson
Which findings concern you the most?

- What else do you need to know?
- Potential nursing diagnosis?

Physician Orders

- Admit to critical thinking ward
- General diet
- IV saline lock
- Cefazolin 500 mg q8h
- Vital signs per routine
- Activity as tolerated
- Social service consult regarding discharge planning
What other orders do you anticipate needing?

- What are your priority nursing actions at this time

The following morning

- Mr. Wilson tells you that he has can’t remember how he got to bed last night and in a panic and loud voice he states, “Where is Riley.. Where is Riley?”
- You orient him to the hospital and that it is 8AM. Mr. Wilkins is shocked and doesn’t remember coming to the hospital and thinks it is night time. In talks to his daughter, she informs him that she is taking care of his dog Riley. He calms down!
- Mr. Wilson has difficulty cooperating with a MS exam
- He periodically picks at his sheets looking for bugs
Which findings concern you the most?

- What else do you need to know?

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Interview with Mr. Wilkins' Daughter

- Mr. Wilson's daughter reveals her concerns to you and the social worker
  - He has been forgetting to take his medication
  - Even though he has meals on wheels he does not always eat
  - He asks the same question repeatedly and sometimes prepares for church on Friday instead of Sunday and then calls irritated that she did not pick him up
  - Although he reported to the social worker that he was in the army for 20 years his daughter indicates he was never in the armed services due to flat feet.
Which findings concern you the most?

- What else do you need to know/do
What further assessment would you like to do?

Alert!

- Mr. Wilson is missing from his bed and is not anywhere in his room.
- You find him in the nourishment room opening and closing cabinets
- You try to move Mr. Wilkins out of the area and to his room but he resists and pushes you away roughly, "I have to go home my wife needs me...where is my wife!" He is now loud and aggressive.
Nursing Diagnosis

- List all that apply

Nursing Interventions

- Identify interventions for your top three Problems
- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
Planning for Discharge to Mr. Wilson's daughter's home

- What teaching will you offer his daughter?

Mr. Wilson and Assisted Living

- Mr. Wilkins' needs more supervision than his daughter is able to provide. She is currently employed and has an active social life.
- Care Giver Role Strain: Interventions
  - List all that might apply
For Home away From Home

- Mr. Wilsons' daughter finds an excellent assisted living facility
- For Home away From Home
  - Interventions to increase his comfort and ensure his safety:

Mr. Wilkins' Adjustment

- Transition to "Sweet" Assisted living is tough for Mr. Wilson
  - At around 4PM he begins looking for his wife and becomes agitated in this pursuit
  - He repeatedly asks "Is it time for lunch" even after eating only 15 minutes prior.

Why does he have difficulty with this transition? Identify Interventions:
Family Interventions

- What information will you provide Mr. Wilson’s family?

Personal Interventions

- Did you provide realistic goals for yourself and Mr. Wilson and his family?
- Did you accurately assess his problems
- Did you allow adequate time for yourself and Mr. Wilson?
- Did you ensure that the environment remained safe?
- Did you provide for self-awareness and obtains support or supervision from faculty, peers, or supervisor?