

KnowledgeBITE

PSYCHOGERIATRIC NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR PRIMARY CARE PRACTITIONERS



Editor's remarks: *This is the first issue of the Psychogeriatric Resource Consultant for Primary Care (PRC-PC) Newsletter providing quick tips and useful information to fit your fast-paced work environment and to help you in the care of patients with dementia. Einat Danieli – OT.Reg.Ont' – PRC-PC*

GOOD TO KNOW ABOUT

Did you know that there is a Senior Crisis Access Line (SCAL)?
This line will provide over the phone support to your senior patients and their family members in crisis situations, and will also send a crisis team to their home if necessary. Give your senior patients the SCAL number: 416-619-5001.

TIP OF THE MONTH

When in doubt of your patient's cognitive abilities and/or how they are coping at home, consider a CCAC OT home assessment. Make sure to ask CCAC to receive a copy of the report. Call CCAC at: 416-506-0374.

OUR DEMENTIA 'TOOLBOX'

In response to your colleague's requests, we have developed a Directory of Psychogeriatric Specialists Services contact sheet and **wait times** list. For a copy of the directory, contact your PRC-PC at 416-586-4800 ext. 5251; prc-pc@mtsinai.on.ca.

WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES AND ARTICLES OF INTEREST:

- The role of physical activity prevention and management of Alzheimer's disease: April 17, 2013 ([Link](#))
- The Canadian Geriatric Society 33rd Annual Scientific meeting – **half a day is dedicated to primary care** ([Link](#))
- Ontario Geriatric Association (OGA) and RGP Annual Conference: May 1-2, 2013 ([Link](#))
- Managing hoarding in the community: May 28, 2013, presented by the Toronto Hoarding Coalition. For more information, contact msidky@rogers.com
- Structured Approach to Patients with Memory Difficulties in Family Practice/Linda Lee et al. (March 2013). *Canadian Family Physician*. Vol.59. ([Link](#))

STORIES FROM THE PRC-PC CONSULT LINE

A family physician (FP) called to consult regarding a patient. The patient is an elderly woman living alone with a history of depression, anxiety, dementia and recent falls. She has resisted attempts to provide help from the CCAC and is suspicious of her daughter's intentions.

Main concerns identified: Medication compliance, suspected incapacity for financial and health care decisions and a risk of falls and self neglect.

In a discussion with the FP, the following plan was created to increase the patient's feelings of safety and trust in her daughter and with at least one service provider.

1. FP will conduct a meeting with both daughter and mother to discuss what kind of assistance the mother would be open to in order to help her stay at home. Start with the least invasive assistance such as Meals on Wheels.
2. Reconnect with the CCAC case coordinator and arrange a graduated PSW service using the assistance of someone that the patient already knows and trusts.
3. Link the daughter to an Alzheimer Society Counselor to get communication tips on how to approach her mother and build trust.
4. As a last end resort, the trustee option through Service Canada should be considered. This will enable the daughter to help manage a fraction of her mother's income from government funds for bill payment and grocery shopping in order to avoid loss of shelter or self neglect due to poor financial management (PRC-PC will provide further information and relevant forms).

For additional information, support, resources or case based consultation please contact your PRC-PC at: 416-585-4800 ext. 5251 or prc-pc@mtsinai.on.ca