Assessment or Complex psychiatric issues

The diagnosis of dementia requires the presence of both cog and functional decline and overriding of depression and other physical causes. Start by asking the patient how they are managing at home. Useful tools for assessment: MimiCog, MOCA, MMSE, SDQ-Cog, lawnson Bradly, RUDAS when you are in doubt about a diagnosis, or when there is high complexity of multiple diagnoses, consider referring to specialty such as Geriatric outpatient clinic or memory clinic. For home bound patients consider referring to Community Psychogeriatric Outreach Team. If the main issues are psychiatric or behavioural refer to psychogeriatric outpatient if the main issues are physical refer to geriatric medicine clinic. If you cannot access the visits your PC-PWC website—community resources tab for directories including wait time and catchment areas www.montsaini.ca/reitmanpc.

Initial complaint information/functional decline. Provide general information about diagnosis and what to expect ahead. Consider discussing ACP. Provide caregiver with information sheet. For dementia related conditions refer to Alzheimer Society. For other mental health issues refer to Canadian Mental Health Association.

Caregiver

Engage caregiver in interview to obtain information about history, symptoms and recent changes in behavior. Monitor mood and consider assessing capacity for treatment/health care place. Determine person's ability to consent for a plan regarding medication and care. Start by asking the patient how they are managing at home. Depression and other physical causes. Functional decline and overruling of capacity. Use the ACE tool as a guide to capacity. 

Family: As a substitute decision maker (SDM). The use of the substitute decision maker (SDM) by health practitioners can assess a person's ability to consent for a specific treatment. For financial matters, a capacity assessment by designated assessor may need to take place. Use the ACE tool as a guide to capacity. 


Legal Aid Ontario T: 416-979-1446; Toll free: 1-800-668-8258, www.legalaid.on.ca for low income seniors or for legal information contact the Advocacy Centre for the Elderly (ACHE): T: 416-598-2656; F: 416-598-7924 [Wait time up to 48 hours].

Counseling, emotional support and mental health-related issues

Monitor mood and consider assessment for depression if applicable. Use the: GDS-CAPS framework or GDS depression and the Cornell Dementia and Depression Scale. For more tools and resources follow this.

- For dementia-related issues refer to the Alzheimer Society of Toronto – First Link T: 416-326-6560; Fax: 416-326-6566. www.alzheimeronto.org [Wait time is between 24-48 hours]. Consider referring patients to psychogeriatric specialist clinics (see directory).

- Call Reassurance Program for seniors 416-349-0744 (social emotional isolation, checks safety, check link). Other mental health consultation services: 


- CAMH – Late life Mood Disorder and Schizophrenia clinics – 416-535-8501. ex 2875

Advice on how to access benefits

Monitor ability to make financial decisions and discuss the importance of making long-term plans.

- CLEO provides information about financial planning. T: 416-408-4420, F: 416-408-4242, Email: cleo@cleo.on.ca, www.cleo.on.ca; 

- Ontario Senior’s Secretariat – provides resources and information. T: 1-888-910-1999; Email: info@seniorsontario.ca; http://www.seniors.ontario.ca/index.php

For capacity assessment, contact the Capacity Assessment Office at: T: 416-327-6766.

For legal representation, contact Legal Aid Ontario T: 416-979-1446; Toll free: 1-800-668-8258; www.legalaid.on.ca. For legal rights information and legal representation primarily for low income seniors, contact the Advocacy Centre for the Elderly (ACHE): T: 416-598-2656; F: 416-598-7924. 

Caregiver support guides. Monitor mood and consider assessment for depression if applicable. Use the: GDS-CAPS framework or GDS depression and the Cornell Dementia and Depression Scale. For more tools and resources follow this.

- For dementia-related issues refer to the Alzheimer Society of Toronto – First Link T: 416-326-6560; Fax: 416-326-6566. www.alzheimeronto.org [Wait time is between 24-48 hours]. Consider referring patients to psychogeriatric specialist clinics (see directory).

- Call Reassurance Program for seniors 416-349-0744 (social emotional isolation, checks safety, check link). Other mental health consultation services: 


- CAMH – Late life Mood Disorder and Schizophrenia clinics – 416-535-8501. ex 2875

For capacity assessment, contact the Capacity Assessment Office at: T: 416-327-6766.

For legal representation, contact Legal Aid Ontario T: 416-979-1446; Toll free: 1-800-668-8258; www.legalaid.on.ca. For legal rights information and legal representation primarily for low income seniors, contact the Advocacy Centre for the Elderly (ACHE): T: 416-598-2656; F: 416-598-7924. 

For low income seniors or for legal information contact the Advocacy Centre for the Elderly (ACHE): T: 416-598-2656; F: 416-598-7924 [Wait time up to 48 hours].

Counseling and emotional support for caregivers of persons with dementia. Use caregiver burden assessment tool (Short Zarit Burden Interview). Monitor for caregiver burden. 


Referral form available online. [Wait time is between 24-48 hours]. T: 416-326-6560; Fax: 416-326-6566. www.alzheimeronto.org

CARERS program at Reitman Centre, Mount Sinai Hospital. T: 416-586-8400 ex. 5192; F: 416-586-3321 www.mountsinai.on.ca/care/reitmancentreelderly.org. [Wait time 4-6 weeks].

 Ontario Senior’s Secretariat – resources and information. T: 1-888-910-1999; Email: info@seniorsontario.ca.

 For low income seniors or for legal information contact the Advocacy Centre for the Elderly (ACHE): T: 416-598-2656; F: 416-598-7924. 

Ontario Senior’s Secretariat – resources and information. T: 1-888-910-1999; Email: info@seniorsontario.ca.

CLEO – provides information about financial planning. T: 416-408-4420, F: 416-408-4242, Email: cleo@cleo.on.ca, www.cleo.on.ca; 

- Ontario Senior’s Secretariat – provides resources and information. T: 1-888-910-1999; Email: info@seniorsontario.ca; http://www.seniors.ontario.ca/index.php

Financial planning issues. Inform caregiver about the capacity assessment and community resources. 

Inform caregiver about the capacity assessment and community resources. 

Counseling and emotional support for caregivers of persons with dementia. Use caregiver burden assessment tool (Short Zarit Burden Interview). Monitor for caregiver burden. 


Referral form available online. [Wait time is between 24-48 hours]. T: 416-326-6560; Fax: 416-326-6566. www.alzheimeronto.org

CARERS program at Reitman Centre, Mount Sinai Hospital. T: 416-586-8400 ex. 5192; F: 416-586-3321 www.mountsinai.on.ca/care/reitmancentreelderly.org. [Wait time 4-6 weeks].

 Ontario Senior’s Secretariat – resources and information. T: 1-888-910-1999; Email: info@seniorsontario.ca.

 For low income seniors or for legal information contact the Advocacy Centre for the Elderly (ACHE): T: 416-598-2656; F: 416-598-7924. 

Ontario Senior’s Secretariat – resources and information. T: 1-888-910-1999; Email: info@seniorsontario.ca.

CLEO – provides information about financial planning. T: 416-408-4420, F: 416-408-4242, Email: cleo@cleo.on.ca, www.cleo.on.ca; 

- Ontario Senior’s Secretariat – provides resources and information. T: 1-888-910-1999; Email: info@seniorsontario.ca; http://www.seniors.ontario.ca/index.php

Financial planning issues. Inform caregiver about the capacity assessment and community resources. 

Inform caregiver about the capacity assessment and community resources. 

For additional information & support contact your Primary Care -Psychogeriatric Resource Consultant (PC-PWC) 416-326-8000 Ext. 5251, pre-pc.msh@sinaihealthsystem.ca 

For the updated electronic version of this guide visit our website at www.mountsaini.ca/reitman/pre-pc
Ask your patient how he/she is managing at home? If applicable discuss community service options listed to the left. All left column boxes are provided by community agencies, all which can be referred and linked to via an elderly Seniors Helpline. The services are subsidized and are at low cost. There is also an option to hire assistance through private agencies.  
Can help in being your “eyes in the home” 
Contact CCAC Care Coordinator or refer to CCAC 
CCAC Primary care line – 416-217-3935

If there are challenges related to functionality, there is a need to determine the level and type of support the patient may need. 

Crisis line operates 7 days/week from 9:00am-5:00pm. Offers timely assistance to seniors with mental health and/or addiction crisis, and caregivers will send a team to visit the patient according to the urgency of the case and assess the crisis and immediate needs.

In extreme cases where behavior cannot be managed at home, consider referring the patient to Centralized Access to Senior Speciality beds (CASS) through CCAC. These are specialized units in behavior support for seniors with psychiatric conditions and will assist in stabilizing the situation.

www.mountsinai.on.ca/care/reitman

COPA can provide guidance to caregivers who are caring for an elderly person with addiction issues or support them in their own addiction issues.

If you are a primary care provider in the TC-LIHIN you can contact the PRC-PC at: 416-586-4800 ext. 5251 or prc-pc.msl@sinalihealthsystem.ca for any other information, tools, education opportunities or CASE BASED CONSULTATION