AGING WELL

Advanced Dementia

Why is it important to know the signs of advanced dementia?

Five years ago, Nelson found out that he had dementia. His family is now needing to provide total care for Nelson at his home. He is unable to walk and mostly lays in bed. Nelson stopped eating and drinking. He always wanted to be home with his family at the end of life. The hospice team comes each week to meet with Nelson and his family to answer questions and provide support. His family is thankful they can spend quality time together, sharing memories that will live on forever. Knowing the signs of advanced dementia is important so customer-owners and families can receive quality end of life support.

What are some considerations for advanced dementia?

- Hard time communicating
- Unable to bathe, dress, eat, or toilet alone
- Difficulty walking or sitting
- Hard time swallowing, eating, or drinking
- Loss of expressions such as being able to smile
- Infections of the lungs or urinary tract

Advanced dementia has different signs and symptoms. These changes can be signs that a person is nearing the end of their life. During these transitions, a family may want to focus care on comfort.

Questions to ask yourself:

- Where do you want to be if time is short — home or hospital?
- At the end of your life, what is most important to you?
- Would you want aggressive medical treatments or a focus on comfort?
- Are your caregivers feeling well supported?

For more information visit:

www.southcentralfoundation.com/aging-well

Or scan the QR code

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What can you do?

- Ask your health care team for a care conference to ask questions and learn about resources and support services.
- Review your health care wishes with your health care team.
- Reach out to local hospice agencies to learn more about end-of-life services and support.
- Seek out emotional support knowing that these transitions can be difficult.
- Remind caregivers about the importance of self-care and reaching out for assistance.

Where can you find support?

Contact your primary care team directly or call
Eklutna Community Clinic..... (907) 688-6031

NB

☑ Your Primary Care Team
Your primary care team can assists with goals of care and understanding end-of-life transitions.

☑ Community Resource Specialist
Community resource specialists can connect you with supportive services and other resources that you may qualify for.

☑ Behavioral Health Consultant
Behavioral health consultants can help assess, provide resources, and recommend treatment options.

☑ Integrated Pharmacist
Integrated pharmacists can help provide medication education and management.

☑ Home Visit Team (R)
The home visit team can assist with home safety assessment and education on dementia.

☐ Waiver Care Coordinator .....(907) 729-6365
Waiver care coordinators can connect you to programs and services for support.

☐ Traditional Healing (R) .....(907) 729-4958
Traditional healing can provide emotional and cultural support during these transitions.

Key

NB Non-Beneficiary	(R) Referral needed	Travel by car required
☑ Support available to Non-Beneficiary	Travel by plane required	Available over the phone or virtual visit