



All behaviour has at least one cause.
First assume all changes in behaviour are due to a reversible cause.

PSYCHIATRIC: Review symptoms of:

Dementia – loss of: memory, orientation, language, motor planning, recognition, insight and judgment; delusions, hallucinations, illusions, anxiety, decreased ADL ability

Depression – irritability/sadness, loss of interest in activities, feelings of hopelessness, suicidal thoughts, anxiety, isolation, weight loss, sleep problems, tiredness, physical complaints, concentration problems, agitation

Delirium – sudden changes in behaviour, sleep patterns, level of confusion, attention, level of consciousness, judgment; increased anxiety, fear, agitation, persecutory delusions, hallucinations

PHYSIOLOGICAL:

The effects of normal aging, medications and their side effects, new and chronic illnesses, pain, constipation, incontinence, sleep, appetite, hydration.

PSYCHOSOCIAL:

Review family relationships, work history, cultural/spiritual values and beliefs, coping style, personal preferences, leisure interests, daily routines, meaningful activities

ENVIRONMENTAL:

Review physical environment (amount of light, noise level, room temperature); social environment (caregiver approach and non-verbal and verbal communication: tone of voice, facial expression, body language, words used, task versus resident focused care)