Thinking Processes Impaired by Dementia

1. **Judgment***: problem solving, consideration of outcomes, consequences & risks.

2. **Attention***: ability to stay on task, to concentrate.

3. **Perception***: ability to interpret sensory information (sights, smell, touch, taste and sounds)

4. **Reasoning***: cause and effect realization, ability to bargain and negotiate, perception or appreciation of levels of danger and risk

5. **Organization***: planning, initiating, following through with an activity

6. **Memory***: ability to store, retain and retrieve information (especially short term memory)

7. **Communication***: giving and receiving verbal and non-verbal language

8. **Abstract Thinking***: ability to perceive concepts, hold multiple thoughts simultaneously

9. **Orientation to Time and Place**: know current day, date, time, location, purpose

10. **Awareness of Socially Appropriate Norms**: impulse control, respecting others’ space, values, etc.

11. **Ability to Filter Emotional Responses**: use ‘common sense’ or other information to gauge emotional reactions

An individual can be said to have a dementia when at least two of the functions with an ‘***’ next to them are impaired and declines are severe enough to interfere with social or occupational functionality. Importantly, the decline must represent a decline from a previously higher level of functioning.

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