

Vignette 1

Ms Burke

Summary:

ADL: Independent or Low Dependency

Cognitive impairment: Mild

Informal Support: Low

Home Situation: Ms Burke is 84 years old and lives in a rural area with her sister.

Activities of daily living: Ms Burke manages her personal care well at the moment. She needs help with household tasks such as cleaning and is finding it more difficult to go to town. She recently had a minor car accident.

Cognitive impairment: Ms Burke was diagnosed with mild dementia 2 months ago. Her short term memory and concentration are both affected.

Physical and mental health: Ms Burke has hypertension and uncomplicated diabetes both of which are managed well with medication. She has no behavioural symptoms of mental health difficulties.

Informal Support: Ms Burke lives with her sister, aged 80. Her sister has arthritis and expresses a lot of worry about their situation.

Care preferences: Ms Burke does not want to spend money on meals on wheels or help around the house.

Vignette 2
Mr Twomey

Summary

ADL: Medium Dependency

Cognitive impairment: Mild

Informal Support: High

Home Situation: Mr Twomey is 79 years old and lives in the centre of a large town with his wife.

Activities of Daily Living: Mr Twomey struggles to bathe and needs to be reminded to wash and maintain personal hygiene. He has difficulty dressing himself and needs assistance both dressing and undressing.

Cognitive impairment: Mr Twomey's has been having mild problems with his short-term memory and concentration for about two years. He sometimes forgets to eat and often doesn't feel hungry.

Physical and mental health: Mr Twomey suffered a minor heart attack 12 months ago. Mr Twomey used to enjoy going to GAA matches but recently has lost interest and refuses to go. He frequently does not want to get out of bed. He gets very worried about small things and is preoccupied with things that might go wrong. He has been prescribed medication for depression but he sometimes refuses to take it.

Informal Support: Mr Twomey is supported by his wife, 73 and their daughter who live nearby. They are coping well but are worried about his low mood.

Care preferences: Mr Twomey has said that he does not want to go to dementia day care.

Vignette 3

Mrs Quinn

Summary

ADL: Medium Dependency

Cognitive impairment: Moderate

Informal Support: Medium

Home Situation: Mrs Quinn is 82 years old and lives alone in a large old house in an urban area.

Activities of Daily Living: Mrs Quinn sometimes has problems remembering to go to the toilet and is partially incontinent. She needs help to get dressed as she has trouble bending down and needs help getting in and out of the shower. She also needs to be prompted to care for her personal hygiene which is quite poor.

Cognitive impairment: Mrs Quinn's short-term memory and concentration are moderately impaired. These problems started about three years ago.

Physical and mental health: Mrs Quinn has high blood pressure which is managed by medication. She needs to be reminded to take her medication. Mrs Quinn has always been a pleasant person but she can now be very irritable when talking to people. Possible causes for her irritability have been investigated. She thinks she is being watched and frequently accuses people of trying to rob her, although there is no evidence of this.

Informal Support: Mrs Quinn's son and daughter live nearby and share the provision of care. Both have their own families. The daughter spends several hours every day with Mrs Quinn, only getting a break at the weekend. She is finding it very stressful. Her son works full time and can only help in the evenings and at the weekend.

Care preferences: Mrs Quinn does not like when people she does not know come into the house.

Vignette 4

Mr Dunne

Summary

ADL: Medium Dependency

Cognitive impairment: Moderate

Informal Support: Low

Home Situation: Mr Dunne is 86 years old and lives alone on a farm in a rural area. The house is heated by an open fire and is in a poor state of repair.

Activities of Daily Living: Mr Dunne needs help with eating, dressing and bathing. He often gets confused when dressing and puts his clothes on back to front and can forget to button up his shirt correctly. He has trouble getting in and out of the shower and needs to be reminded to wash. He has no issues with continence or in getting around the house.

Cognitive impairment: Mr Dunne's short-term memory and concentration are moderately impaired. These difficulties were first recognised four years ago.

Physical and mental health: Mr Dunne can forget he is not as mobile as he used to be and has had several falls in the past year but no serious injury. He regularly walks into the village which is some distance away and on a busy road and someone has to drop him home. He has hallucinations periodically which he finds confusing and distressing.

Informal Support: Mr Dunne is supported by his daughter who lives nearby. She spends several hours with Mr Dunne every day. She worries a lot about how they are going to cope in the future. She is taking medication for anxiety and depression and has a young family.

Care preferences: Mr Dunne is happy living at home but his daughter wants him to move to a nursing home.

Vignette 5
Mrs Crowley

Summary

ADL: Medium Dependency

Cognitive impairment: Severe

Informal Support: Medium

Home Situation: Mrs Crowley is 83 years old and lives alone in an urban area.

Activities of Daily Living: Mrs Crowley struggles to bathe and needs to be reminded to wash and maintain personal hygiene. She has difficulty dressing herself and needs assistance both dressing and undressing.

Cognitive impairment: Mrs Crowley has severe memory problems. She gets confused and often does not recognise her family. She was diagnosed with dementia 5 years ago.

Physical and mental health: Mrs Crowley had a fall recently where she sprained her wrist. She has recovered but is unsteady on her feet and needs constant supervision. She had a stroke last year that resulted in her having problems communicating. Mrs Crowley often cannot sleep at night and does not want to get out of bed in the morning. She sits quietly for most of the day and has little interest in the things she used to enjoy.

Informal Support: Mrs Crowley is supported by two daughters who live nearby with their families. One of the daughters provides most of the support. She finds it very tiring as she is always on the go.

Care preferences: Mrs Crowley has told you that her daughters treat her like a child.

Vignette 6:
Mrs Enright

Summary

ADL: High Dependency

Cognitive impairment: Severe

Informal Support: High

Home Situation: Mrs Enright is 80 years old and lives at home with her husband aged 77.

Activities of Daily Living: Mrs Enright is incontinent and requires help with all aspects of bathing and dressing. She is unsteady on her feet and needs help to move around the house. She is able to feed herself but sometimes forget to chew her food so it must be blended or cut into small pieces. She is unable to carry out any household tasks.

Cognitive impairment: Mrs Enright has severe memory problems. She gets confused and often does not recognise her family. Her ability to express herself is limited. She was diagnosed with dementia four years ago.

Physical and mental health: Mrs Enright had a fall last year and was hospitalised. She has recovered but is very unsteady on her feet and needs constant supervision. She often tries to get up at night. She has hallucinations on a regular basis which she finds confusing and which is distressing for her husband.

Informal Support: Mrs Enright is supported by her husband and their two adult daughters who live nearby. They share the care equally, sharing out days, evenings and weekends so that there is always someone with their father to provide care. Recently her husband has been finding it increasingly difficult to manage.

Care preferences: Mrs Enright has said in the past that she does not want to be a burden on her family.