

The S.A.F.E. Geriatric Neurorehabilitation Framework

Screen Early • Assess Comprehensively • Functional Interdisciplinary Intervention • Educate • Evaluate • Evolve

Dementia Care Pathway – Clinical Practice Module

PURPOSE

To standardize the identification, assessment, interdisciplinary management, caregiver education, and ongoing monitoring of residents living with dementia while improving safety, continuity of care, and quality outcomes.

WHY THIS PATHWAY MATTERS

Residents with dementia are at increased risk for communication decline, dysphagia, delirium, falls, caregiver burden, malnutrition, and avoidable hospitalizations. Standardized care reduces variability and improves quality.

APPLICABLE POPULATION

Alzheimer's disease • Vascular dementia • Lewy body dementia • Parkinson's disease dementia • Mixed dementia • Mild cognitive impairment

ADMISSION SCREENING & REFERRAL TRIGGERS

Screening Item	Completed	Referral Triggers
Diagnosis & stage confirmed	■	• New communication decline
Communication profile	■	• Coughing during meals
Swallow screening	■	• Weight loss
Behavior triggers	■	• Caregiver concern
Caregiver interview	■	• Behavioral changes
Preferred language / culture	■	• Hospital discharge
Vision / Hearing	■	• Medication changes

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESPONSIBILITIES

Discipline	Responsibilities
SLP	Communication, cognition, swallowing
Nursing	Daily carryover & orientation
PT	Mobility with dual-task activities
OT	Functional cognition & ADLs
Dietary	Nutrition & IDDSI
Social Work	Caregiver resources
Physician	Medical oversight

QUALITY INDICATORS & IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST

Quality Indicators	Implementation Checklist
• Communication participation	■ Administration approval
• Aspiration events	■ Nursing education
• Nutrition / hydration	■ PT / OT education
• Falls	■ Dietary education
• Readmissions	■ Caregiver education
• Caregiver confidence	■ Documentation updated
• Quality of life	■ Quality metrics initiated
	■ Quarterly review

EVIDENCE BASE

Person-centered dementia care • Neuroplasticity principles • Evidence-based cognitive rehabilitation • IDDSI • CMS quality initiatives • Interdisciplinary rehabilitation
