

## **Handout A - FACTORS AFFECTING PHYSICALLY AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR (PAB) & OTHER DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR**

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### **Use in care planning to:**

- identify underlying causes of PAB
- plan interventions to reduce the need for PAB
- change variable factors that cause PAB

### **BACKGROUND FACTORS**

#### **(mostly unchangeable): Effect on Person with Dementia:**

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**Neurological:** specific regional brain involvement (the parts of the brain that inhibit the expression of impulses, such as anger, rage, tearfulness or striking out, are frequently affected in dementia, leaving the resident unable to control the emotional reaction that arises when feeling frustrated or threatened).

Chemical imbalance: affects the function of brain cells.

Altered motor ability: causes limited mobility and frustration.

Altered life patterns or body rhythms: throws off life-long patterns of living, may cause sundowning.

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**Cognitive:** attention, memory, language skill deficits and altered visual perception (perceiving water in a whirlpool bath as boiling water or black floor tiles as deep holes).

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**General health:** state of health, psychiatric diagnosis, functional ability, and emotional level.

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**Psychosocial:** gender, education, occupation, personality type, history of psychosocial stress and behavioral response to stress.

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### **VARIABLE FACTORS**

#### **(changing and changeable): Effect on Person with Dementia:**

*Variable Factors added to Background Factors trigger PAB*

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**Personal:** day to day emotions, biological needs and functional performance.

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**Physical environment:** light, temperature and noise level; change in physical environment.

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**Social environment:** staff stability, staff mix, unit atmosphere (including personal vs. impersonal care and a respectful vs. disrespectful attitude toward treating residents as adults).

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**Psychological environment:** presence of factors perceived as threatening or soothing to the resident.

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**Cultural environment:** institutional rituals and routines that the resident perceives as favorable or unfavorable