

Dementia and agitation

RFQs

- How are you feeling Joyce? Have you had any symptoms or problems? Are you in pain at all?
- Has there been any suggestion of fever?
- Has Joyce had any accidents with her waterworks or bowels?
- Has Joyce been short of breath or had a cough?

Provide

There is no sign of infection in your urine Joyce. And there is no suggestion of constipation. Usually it's best not to sedate her to deal with her distress. Often a bit of social interaction or distraction will be very effective. But it may be worth considering whether pain might be the cause. What do you think? Paracetamol is often very effective. If there is good evidence of pain we may use other painkillers too. Let me know if you think that could be worth a try.

Safety net:

If Joyce is unduly distressed, in the future, it would be worth checking a urine sample. We should make sure that she is not constipated (by doing a rectal exam) and examine her to check for painful joints. If we can't find anything obvious, we could give paracetamol a try in the first instance.