[Starting from right-most panel of Pg.1]

Baycrest Centre for Learning, Research & Innovation in Long-Term Care

Sensory Observation System

**Explain the situation.**

I have a(n) <urgent or non-urgent> concern about <resident name and location>.

**What is the relevant observation?**

<What you (or resident) see, hear, smell, touch> during <state the activity> over a period of <time, hours, days weeks>.

**What needs to be done (by you or other team members)?**

What can I do for this resident?

• Seek feedback, clarification, or further instruction

• If you continue to be concerned, ask again

[Starting from the inside of the brochure – Pg.2 – to the outside of the brochure – Pg.1]

**Neurological, Cognition, Pain, Mood & Behaviour**

Look & See  
• More lethargic, tired, weak faint, non-responsive

• Sudden change in level of consciousness, weakness of face, arm, trunk, leg – limited to 1 side; sudden confusion, anxious, fearful, behaviour change (describe the change), irritable, restless, seizure

• Resisting or refusing care

• More withdrawn or talking more than usual, sad, less interaction and participation, suicidal, homicidal

Listen & Hear  
• Not talking as per usual (talking more or less, slurring)

• Sudden change in speech

• Positive or negative themes

• Change in sleep pattern, insomnia

Touch & Feel

• Sudden numbness of face, arm, leg – only 1 side

Consider Further

• Pain (location, kind, intensity, on activity)? Non-verbal signs?

**Sensory – Eyes, Nose, Ears & Tongue**

Look & See

**•** Can’t see the same, new decreased or lost vision

Listen & Hear **•** Can’t hear, smell, taste the same

**Respiratory – Breathing & Lungs**

Look & See

• Sudden or increased effort to breathe at rest or with activities, breathing fast, productive cough, sore throat

• Needs more pillows to sleep in bed, sitting up during sleep

Listen & Hear

• Wheezing, coughing, sneezing, congested

**Cardiovascular – Heart & Circulation**

Look & See

• More swollen (limbs, sacrum, eyes, scrotum, abdomen)

*Clothes are tighter*

Consider Further

• New or unrelieved chest pain, chest tightness, pressure, discomfort

*Could be discomfort in neck, jaw, shoulder, left arm, back?*

**Integumentary – Skin & Touch**

Look & See

• Pale, flushed, gray, blue, jaundiced in appearance

• Diaphoretic – sweating too much, night sweats

• Skin breakdowns, new bruises, skin tears or wound(s) bigger, more wound drainage, reddened wound(s)

• New reddened area over pressure spots that does not blanch when touched

Touch & Feel

• Skin warm or hot to touch, drier or wetter than usual

Smell

• Unusual smell to resident’s wound

**Gastrointestinal – Oral, Digestion & Elimination**

Look & See (Ostomy?)

• Change in intake pattern or decreased oral intake over 24 hrs

• Dry mouth, lips and tongue; mouth sores present

• Nausea, vomiting (blood, coffee ground, etc.), pocketing food in mouth

• Rapid onset of abdominal pain, distention, weight gain, unexpected weight gain/loss

• Unusually bloated, distended abdomen

• Change to continence level

• Change in frequency, size, type, and consistency of bowel movement (BM) or no BM for 2 days

Listen & Hear

• Coughing before, during, or after swallowing

• Gurgling, wet voice

Touch & Feel

• Pain when touching abdomen; abdomen firm to touch

Smell

• Foul smelling BM

**Genitourinary – Renal & Elimination**

Look & See

• Change to continence level; urine output (amount, colour, signs of blood); pain on urination; bleeding significantly from vagina

Smell

• Foul smelling urine

**Musculoskeletal – Muscles & Bones**

Look & See

• Change in balance, weight bearing, transfer, ambulation, postural ability; dramatic decline in muscle strength, sudden onset of one sided weakness

• More tremors, decreased exercise/activity tolerance

• Falls – when, where, why and outcome

Touch & Feel

• Unequal limb strength from left to right

• Increased rigidity

**Function – ADLs & Activity**

Look & See

• Change in level of assistance required for toileting, feeding, dressing, grooming, ambulation and bathing

• Sudden decline in function

• Activity intolerance, participating less