

VITAL ORGANS

REPORT / RECORD / ACTION

New or increased:
Seizures, partial or total

Brain

CHANGES TO:

Level of alertness:

- Drowsy
- Confusion
- Seeing or hearing things that are not real

Behaviour:

- Agitation
- Getting lost / wandering
- Withdrawn
- Aggressive
- Irritable / refusing care
- Tiredness

Function:

- ADLs
- Weakness
- Speech
- Swallowing
- Mobility

Face or body:

- Facial expression; weakness of arm or leg
- One sided facial droop
- Paralysis or loss of function

New or increased:

- Pain: type, where, severity e.g. burning
- Swallowing problems
- Thirst or hunger
- Indigestion
- Belching
- Nausea
- Vomiting

Stomach

Changes to:

- Breath e.g. ketones (nail polish smell)
- Appetite

New or increased:

Heart

- Pain or discomfort e.g. tightness, heaviness, pressure of aching
- Palpitations
- Dizziness when standing up
- Irregular pulse

Complaints of pain or discomfort in:

- Chest / jaw / left arm
- Upper abdomen, radiating (see RN Care Guides p8)

What treatment has been given?

New or increased:

Sexual Organs

- Pain
- Discharge (colour)
- Offensive smell
- Blood
- Prolapse
- Itching
- Swelling

New or increased:

- Breathlessness at rest or on exertion
- Cough or wheeze
- Noise on breathing
- Pain on breathing

Sputum:

- Colour
- Consistency
- Smell
- Blood
- Amount

Lung

CHANGES TO BREATHING PATTERN:

- Rapid or fast
- Shallow
- Deep
- Unusual
- Slow

Weight loss or gain

General

New or increased:

- Bloating or distension
- Black bowel motions
- Diarrhoea
- Constipation
- Pain passing motion
- Prolapse / haemorrhoids / piles
- Bleeding

Bowel

Is a sample needed?

See Care Giver guide "Intake & Output"

Bladder & Kidneys

- Concentrated smelly urine
- Difficulty / pain passing urine
- Frequency of urine
- Little or no urine
- Changes to odour e.g. ketones (nail polish smell)

Is a sample needed? Dipstick urine
See Care Giver guide "Intake & Output"

Changes:

- Dusky, blue, discoloured
- Pale or cold
- Clammy, sweaty
- Swollen
- Painful to touch
- Lips
- Swelling of feet, ankles sacrum

Skin

New or increased:

- Fluid leakage
- Rash, breaks, redness
- Skin tear

See Care Giver guide "Skin"

PROMPTS

- Have I checked the care plan and progress notes
- Have I reported the family's concerns
- Have I followed the advanced care plan
- Have I written / recorded accurately all forms and notes to the RN
- What is the follow up plan after reporting this to the RN
- Have the family been notified

CALL THE RN FOR HELP!

If there is no RN call an ambulance:

- Unconscious, drowsy or confused
- Collapse
- New or severe seizure
- Severe bleeding
- New or severe vomiting or passing of blood
- Ongoing choking with distress
- New or severe chest pain
- New or severe breathlessness
- You suspect a stroke