Caring for FTD Patients in Long-Term Care Facilities

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Objectives

• Discuss knowing when it is time to place a loved one in a facility.
• Describe the right facility for someone with FTD.
• Understand the roles of different health care providers
• Learn the role of hospice in facilities
How do I know when it is time?

• Safety Issues – for caregiver and patient – wandering, combativeness, unaware of environmental safety risks

• Caregiver burn-out

• Physical conditions – caregiver unable to manage
Choosing the Right Facility

• Training of Staff
• Are residents separated according to level of functioning/cognition?
• How many other residents with FTD in facility?
• Talk with other families
• Set up scenarios – what would you do if....?
Which Health Care Providers?
- Does my loved one need to see any specialists?
- Neurologists, psychiatrists, etc.
- Is any other testing needed?
- How do I find out about research and clinical trials?
Dealing with Nurses and Caregivers in a Facility

• Roles change
• “I didn’t do it that way at home”
• “Why is he losing weight? – I don’t think you are feeding him.”
• Bathing issues
• Discussing combativeness, sexual issues
• Keep lines of communication open!
• Disruptive other residents
Hospice

• Is it allowed in nursing facilities?
• How do I know when it is time?
• How do I access it?
• What exactly is hospice and what will they do for my loved one?
• Comfort issues vs continued aggressive care
I'm teased... "Wanna go down to the mall and bump into people's ankles with our scooters?"