APPROACHES TO MANAGING THE THREE MAJOR SYNDROMES OF
DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

We have adapted the needs-based model (Cohen-Mansfield, 2000) to link unmet needs expressed as disruptive behavior assessed using the methodology above or similar methodology, possible underlying causes with matched approaches, and specific interventions provided in EDGE. Each trial of an intervention should be evaluated using 24-hour documentation for a period of 2-4 weeks to assess its effectiveness.

Aggressive behaviors

- Is the person trying to communicate discomfort?
- Is the person experiencing delusions or hallucinations?
- Could the person feel that you invaded his/her personal space?
- Is the person trying to refuse an ADL?
- Is the person bothered by another resident?

Change the environment to be more comfortable

Check vision, hearing, or other causes of misinterpretation

Try new approaches to getting closer to the person

Try to accommodate by performing the ADL at a different time or by a different method

Try to separate the people who may trigger negative responses in each other

Environmental Influences Checklist

Gentle Bathing

Coping With Aggressive Behaviors
Physically non-aggressive behaviors

- Does the person have akathisia?
  - Change medications
- Is the person looking for a home?
  - Try to make the place look and feel more like home

- Does the person seem upset?
  - Is the person restless? Does the person seem to be looking for something?
  - Try to find activities which are meaningful for the older person

- Does the person have a need for self-stimulation or exercise?
  - Change position or other sources of discomfort

- Is the person disturbing others?
  - Are you concerned about the safety of the person?
  - Try to use safety devices: safety alarms, large enclosed environments change look of exit doors
  - Is the person trespassing and bothering others?
  - Try to develop a more inviting environment where the person can wander, camouflage other entrances

- Is the behavior disturbing others?
  - Try to change staff attitudes; or channel behavior to more appropriate routes

1:1 Visits
Tea Group
Individualized Music
Worship Services

Simple Pleasures

EDGE/BASICS In-services
Verbal Agitation

- Is it a physical pain or discomfort?
- Need for social contact?
- Need for stimulation? Boredom?
- Need for Control?
- Insufficient daylight?
- Misinterpretation of the situation?
- Hallucinations?
- Medical treatment or nursing intervention
- Try social interaction real or taped
- Identify meaningful activities/physical exercise
- Offer choices; provide tasks that allow for control
- Take outside or use bright light therapy
- Improve communication transition to situation cues
- Check vision/hearing try using familiar objects or people

Individualized music

1:1 Visits
- Big Band
- Social Interactions
- Worship Services

Breakfast Club
- Tea Group

1:1 Visits
- Tea Group
- Simple Pleasures
- Social Interactions