

April 2022

## RN & EN Education



This material was originally developed by Queensland University of Technology as part of the Researching Early Detection of Deterioration in Elderly residents (EDDIE+) project, which was funded by the NHMRC MRFF 2019-2023. It can be used in line with the associated Creative Commons license.



# Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the First Nations owners of the lands on where we gather today and pay our respects to the Elders, lores, customs and creation spirits of this country.

For thousands of years, the First Nations owners have gathered to share their knowledge and stories.

We pay our respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and acknowledge the important role they play within our communities.

We recognise their long and continuing connection to country, the lands, winds and waters throughout Australia.

We recognise that these lands have always been places of teaching, researching and learning.

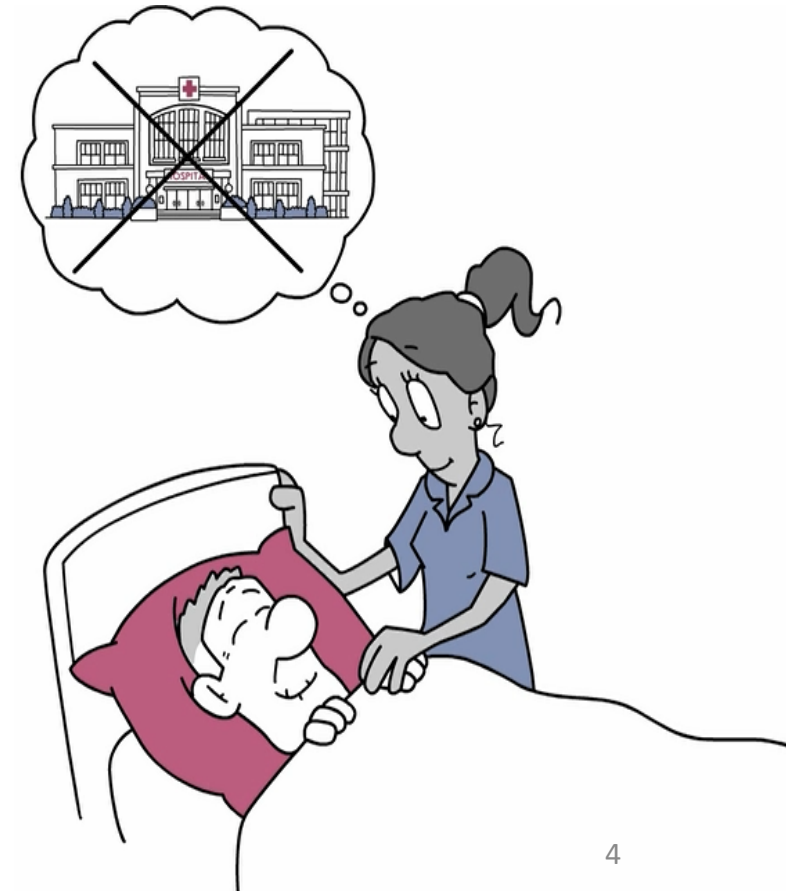
# Learning outcomes

## Aged Care Quality Standards

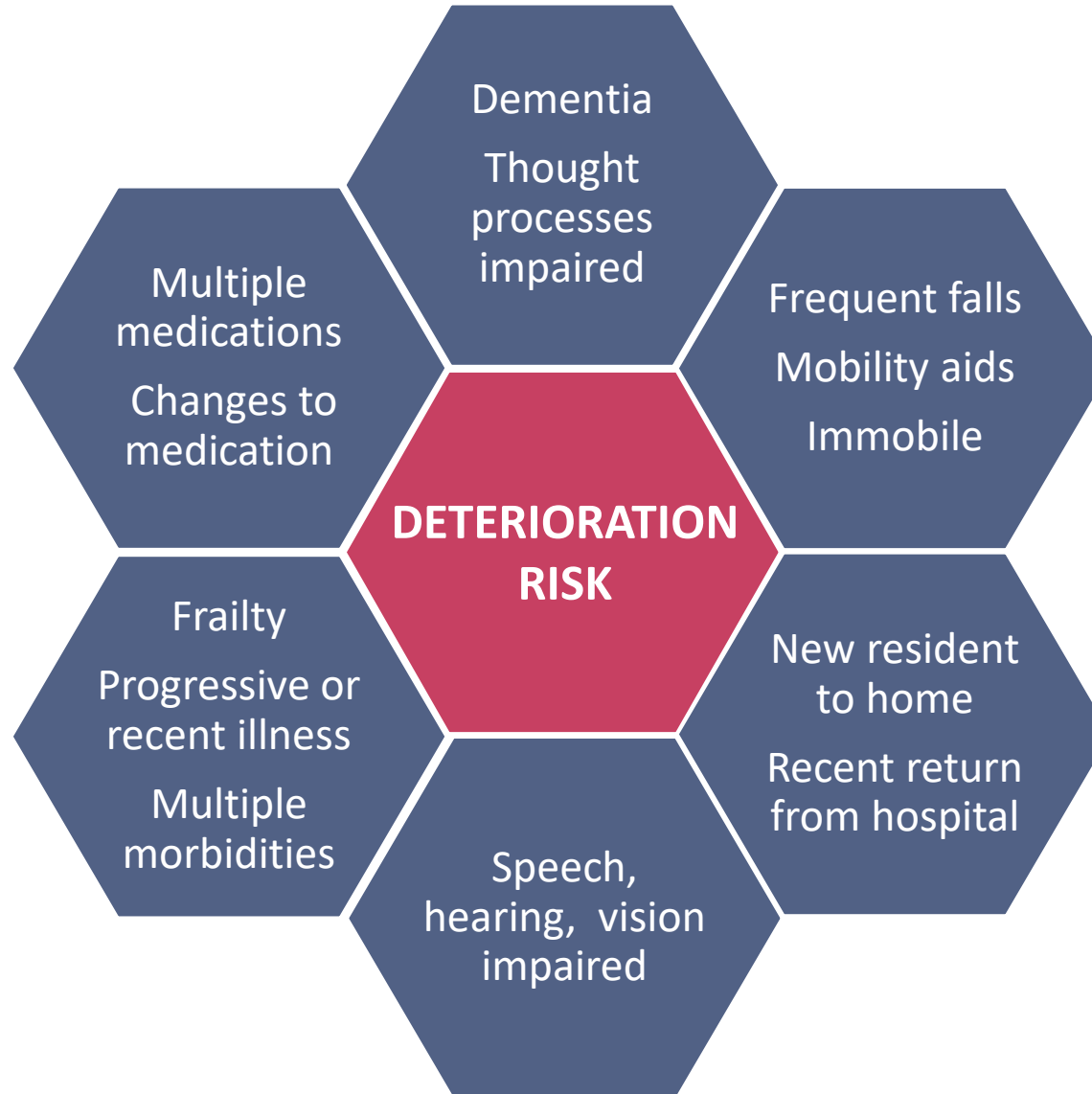
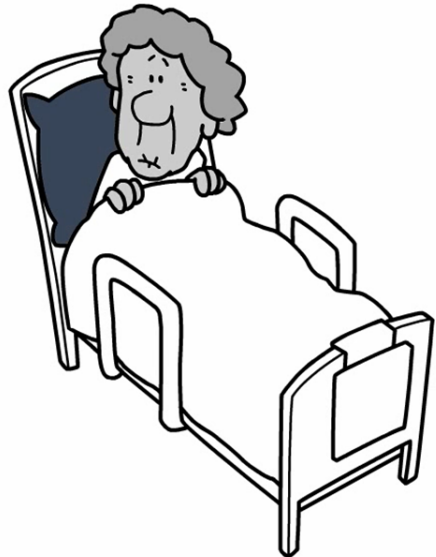
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	Review physical, psychological or cognitive changes in residents that may indicate a risk profile for deterioration
	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	Identify key clinical assessments, care and referral/review pathways for residents at risk of deterioration
✓	✓	✓						Use reporting processes and communication tools to support early escalation of resident deterioration

# Why avoid hospital?

- Increased risk of healthcare associated complications
- Loss of independence
- Deconditioning
- Distress
- Worse or extended illness, delayed recovery
- Decreased quality of life and shortened life span



# Residents at higher risk of deterioration



# Noticing changes

How are they responding to you?

Aggressive, not talking, tired?

Has a family member/  
carer/advocate told you of a change?

Are they in pain, distressed, confused?

Is this behaviour normal for them?

Are they less active or overactive?

Unsteady on feet?

How is their eating drinking, toileting and sleep?

ALL staff encouraged to report early changes in a resident's condition



# Barriers to early reporting

**Process:** uncertain of whether to report, what to say, to whom, when and how?

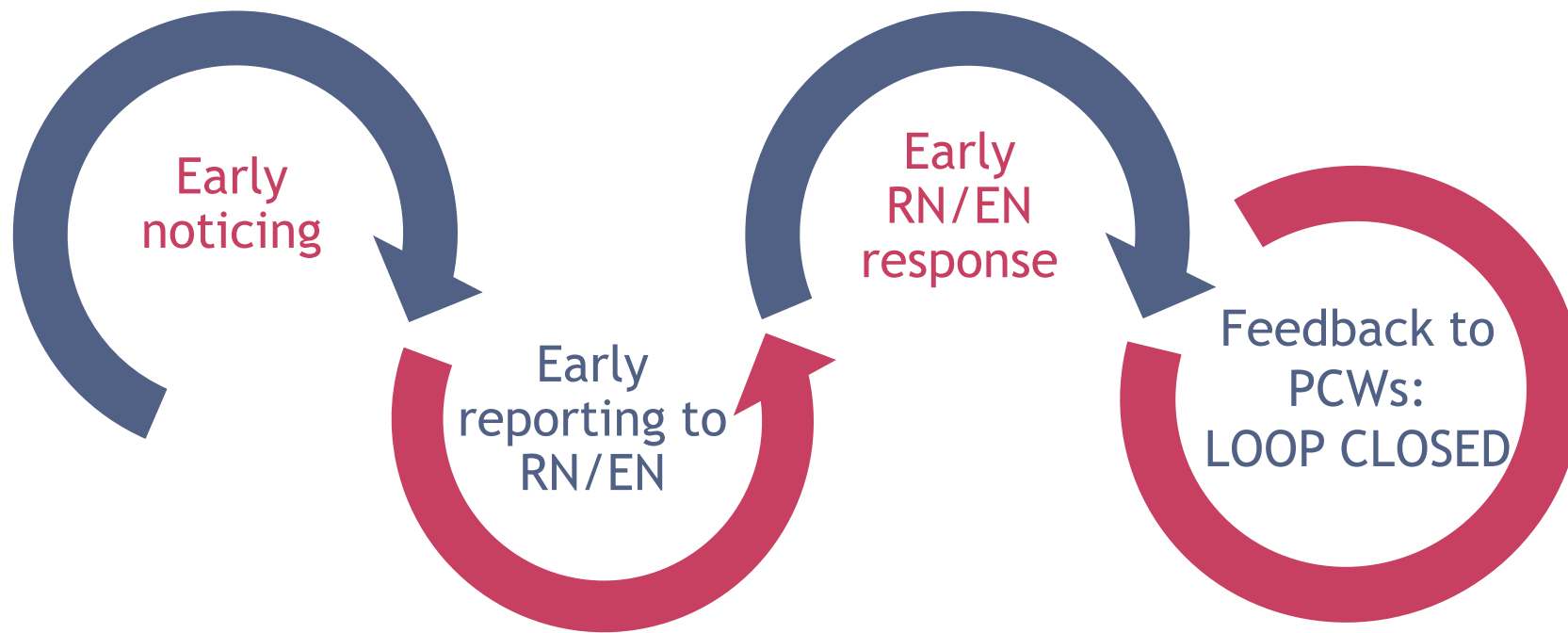
**Timing:** time needed to report, when to report, workload

**Experiences of reporting:** Follow up and feedback, unsure of outcomes in past, not listened to



RNs/ENs are to acknowledge and offer feedback to PCWs

# Communication



## LOOP CLOSED:

- ☐ PCWs concern & reporting acknowledged
- ☐ PCWs made aware of what follow-up action has been taken for the resident



# Early Detection of the Deteriorating Resident



DELIRIUM



CHEST PAIN



DYSPNOEA



DEHYDRATION



UTIs



CONSTIPATION



FALLS



PALLIATIVE CARE

# Clinical response

## Recognising

What's changed?

What's been  
reported?



## Assessments

Signs/symptoms,  
history

Physiological  
effects

Apply clinical  
judgment and  
reasoning

## Care

What actions to  
take?

Immediate care &  
longer term care

Clinical monitoring

## Referral/ Review

Who to consult?

Reporting

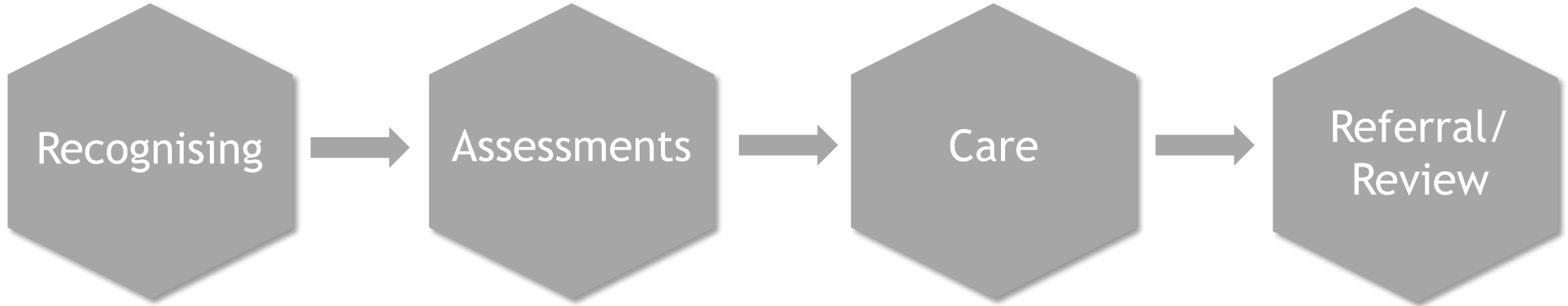
Further review  
and referral

Check in with PCW



# Delirium

EDDIE<sup>+</sup>



- Disturbed cognition and consciousness
- Altered perception, attention deficit
- Abrupt onset
- Hyperactive, hypoactive or fluctuations of both

- Vital signs
- CAM, 4AT, GCS
- Pain Assessment: PQRST, numerical, Abbey, M-RVBPI, PAINAD, McGill
- FBC & bowel chart
- Infection, UTI
- Medication review
- Use of aids
- Sleep patterns
- Head to toe assessment

- Analgesia
- Hydration, aperient
- Reduce noise/distractions
- Reassurance/reorientation
- Promote sleep/rest
- Falls risk prevention

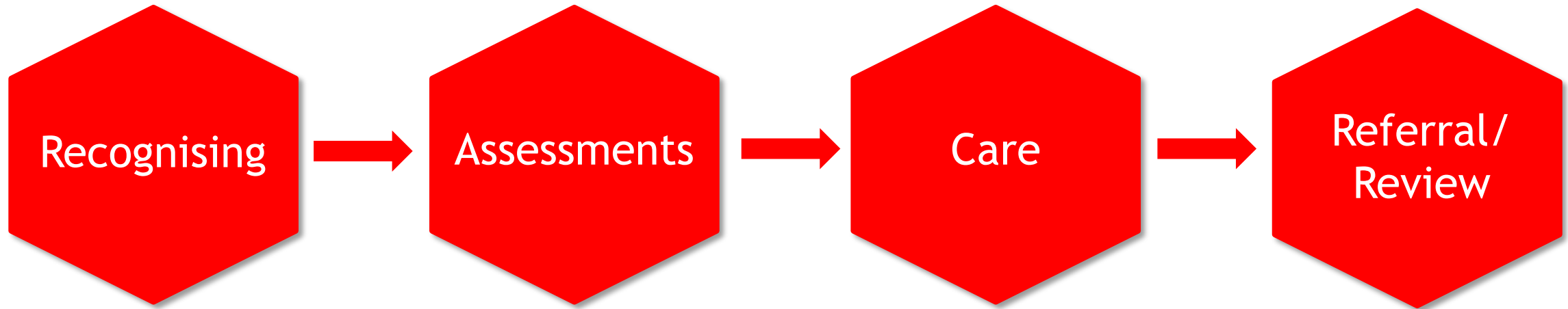
- GP
- Hospital outreach

Monitor vital signs & cognitive state  
Documentation, handover & inform resident representative



# Chest pain

EDDIE<sup>+</sup>



- Distress
- Central or tight chest pain, may radiate to jaw or left arm or back
- Heavy feeling on chest
- Nausea
- Sweating
- Reflux
- Dyspnoea
- Agitation

- Vital signs
- Pain assessment: PQRST, numerical, Abbey, M-RVBPI, PAINAD, McGill
- Medication review
- 3 Lead ECG rhythm
- Head to toe assessment

- Administer GTN & aspirin if not contraindicated
- Analgesia
- Oxygen therapy titrate to 95% < or COPD 88-92%
- Lie or sit person down, loosen clothing, reassure
- Review ACP status/ documentation

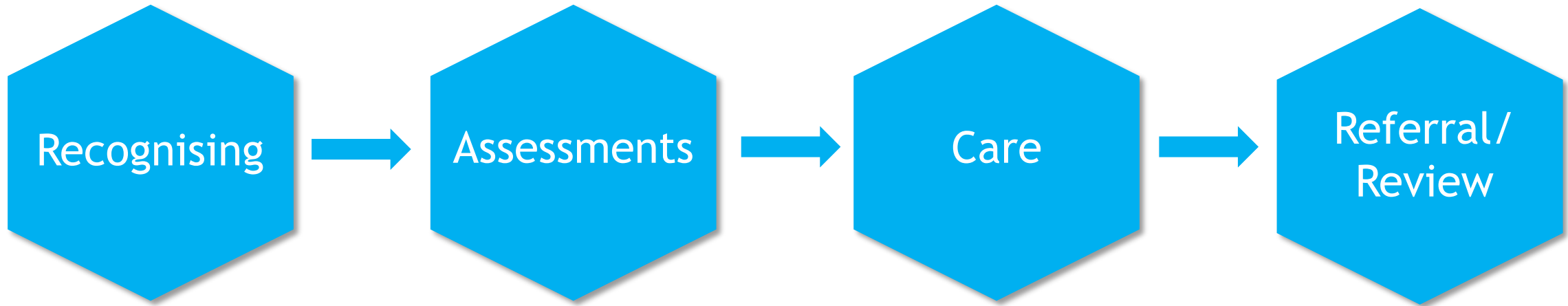
GP  
Hospital outreach

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# Dyspnoea

EDDIE<sup>+</sup>



- RR  $\geq$ 30 breaths/min
- Asthma, COPD, increased coughing and sputum
- Sweating, fever
- Agitation, confusion
- Difficult speaking, lying supine, use of extra-sternal muscles, SOB
- Noisy breathing, stridor
- Cyanosis
- Chest or pain on breathing

- Vital signs: O<sub>2</sub> Saturations (resident dependent)
- Respiratory assessment: auscultation, palpation, observation
- Pain Assessment: PQRST, numerical, Abbey, M-RVBPI, PAINAD, McGill
- Borg dyspnoea scale
- Medication review
- Conscious level, GCS

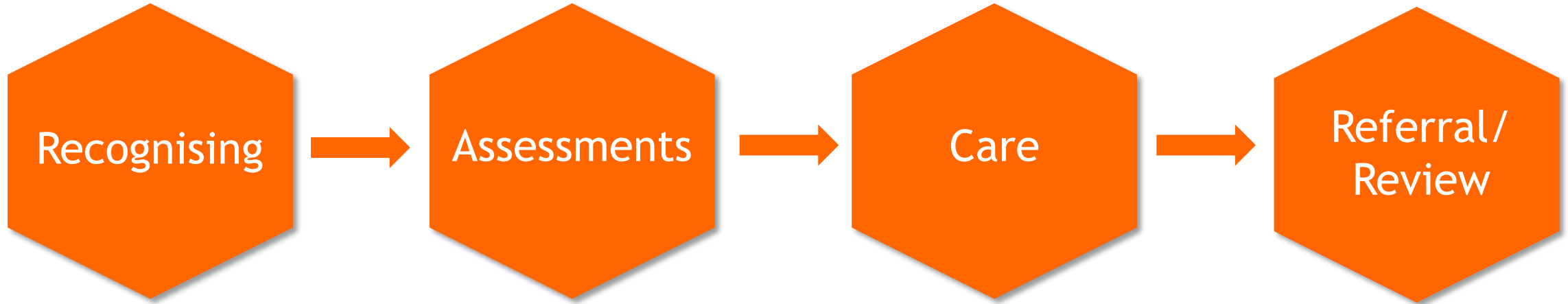
- Semi-Fowler's position, sit resident upright
- Administer prescribed medications: respiratory, diuretics, analgesia
- Oxygen administration: O<sub>2</sub> Saturations <92% or low for resident - aim for >92-96%
- COPD 0.5-2 l/min via NP - aim for O<sub>2</sub> Sat >88-92%

- GP
- Hospital outreach
- Physiotherapist

Monitor vital signs & cognitive state  
Documentation, handover & inform resident representative



# Dehydration



- Fatigue, weakness, delirium, agitation
- Dry, poor tissue turgor, sunken eyes
- Decreased thirst/poor oral intake
- Decreased or dark urine
- Constipation
- Fluid loss: fever, diarrhoea, vomiting, wound, infection

- Vital signs, medication review
- CAM, GCS
- FBC & bowel chart
- Pain assessments: PQRST, numerical, Abbey, M-RVBPI, PAINAD, McGill
- Oral intake: dysphagia, anorexia
- BGL (ketoacidosis)
- Use of sight/hearing aids
- Changes to mobility

- Prompt resident to drink & assist with oral intake
- FBC
- Address fluid losses
- Mouth and skin care
- Hypodermoclysis: Subcutaneous fluid administration (1ml/minute up to 60ml/hour at one site)

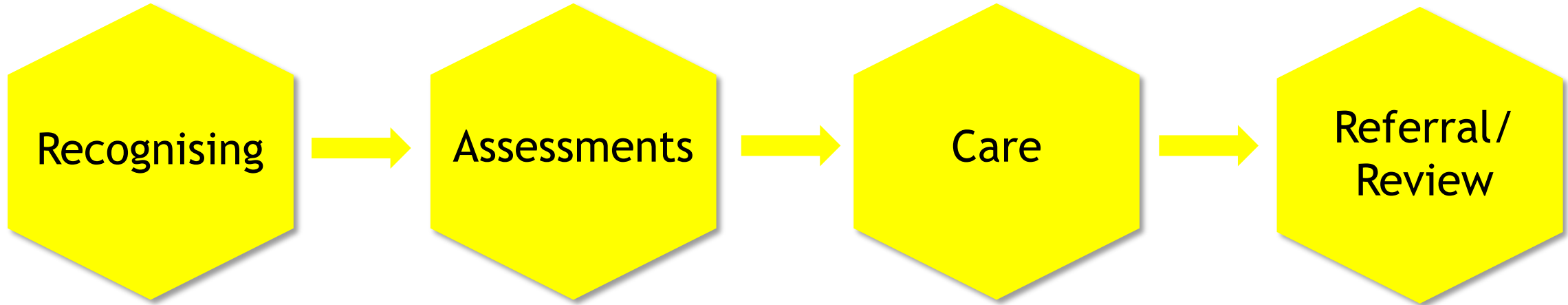
- GP
- Hospital outreach

Monitor vital signs & cognitive state  
Documentation, handover & inform resident representative



# UTIs

EDDIE<sup>+</sup>



- Dysuria
- Incontinence, retention, frequency & urgency
- Flank pain or suprapubic pain
- Haematuria, pyuria, turbid malodorous
- Delirium, agitation
- Fatigue, anorexia, malaise
- Fever: T° +1.5°C above baseline or > 38°C

- Vital signs, medication review
- Pain Assessment: PQRST, numerical, Abbey, M-RVBPI, PAINAD, McGill
- MSU/ Urinalysis
- FBC & Continence changes
- CAM, cognition
- Criteria UTI met
- Risk profile assessment- CAUTI, diabetes, hospitalisation, catheter, Hx Renal calculi, cystocele, fistulas

- FBC - increase fluids
- Use alkalisers
- Skin hygiene/pressure area care
- Falls risk prevention
- Fever care
- Analgesia
- Bladder scan (PVR)

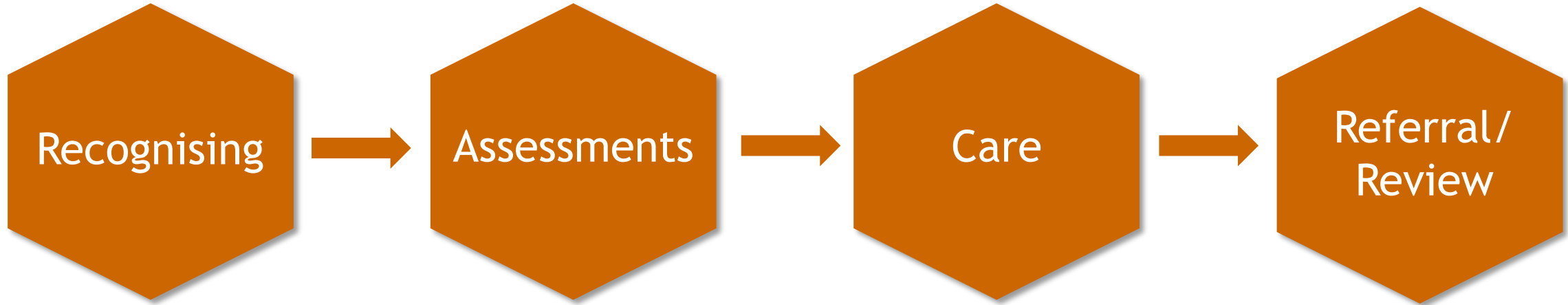
- GP
- Hospital outreach
- Monitor antimicrobials

Monitor vital signs & cognitive state  
Documentation, handover & inform resident representative



# Constipation

EDDIE<sup>+</sup>



- < 3 bowels open/week or > 2 days no bowel action
- Abdominal bloating, pain, cramps, nausea, vomiting
- Straining, incomplete evacuation, feeling of fullness/blockage in rectum
- Delirium
- Dehydration, anorexia

- Vital signs
- Abdominal palpation
- Bowel sounds, flatus
- Pain Assessment: PQRST, numerical, Abbey, M-RVBPI, PAINAD, McGill
- FBC & bowel chart
- CAM
- Medication review
- Rectal and faecal examination
- Bladder scan- Uropathy

- FBC & Bowel chart daily/shift
- Aperients/enemas/suppositories
- Increase dietary fibre/fruits/fluids
- Regular toileting/bowel training
- Abdominal massage (10min/day)
- Increase activity

- GP
- Hospital outreach

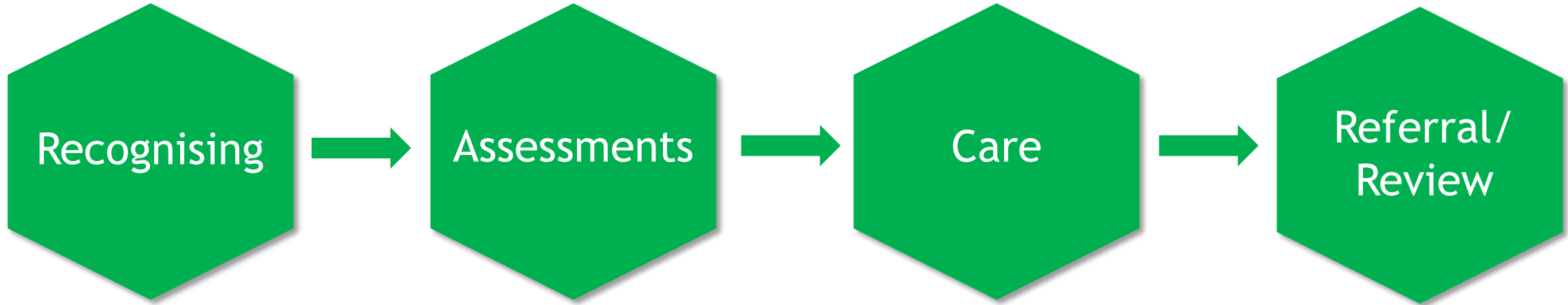
Monitor vital signs & cognitive state  
Documentation, handover & inform resident representative





# Falls

EDDIE<sup>+</sup>



- Bruising, laceration, physical injury, fractures
- Pain, agitation, guarding
- Cognitive changes
- Change in mobility (aids & footwear)
- Risk factors: delirium, dementia, dehydration, incontinence, infection, frailty & impaired mobility
- Environmental: flooring, lighting, obstacles

- Vital signs & BGL(hypo)
- CAM, GCS, AVPU
- Pain Assessment: PQRST, numerical, Abbey, M-RVBPI, PAINAD, McGill
- FBC & Medication review
- Infections, UTI
- Falls risk assessment (FRAT)
- Use of vision, hearing and mobility aids
- Head to toe assessment

- Post Fall Management head injury or non-head injury observations
- Pain management, wound care, oxygen therapy
- Hip protectors, alarm mats
- Remain with resident

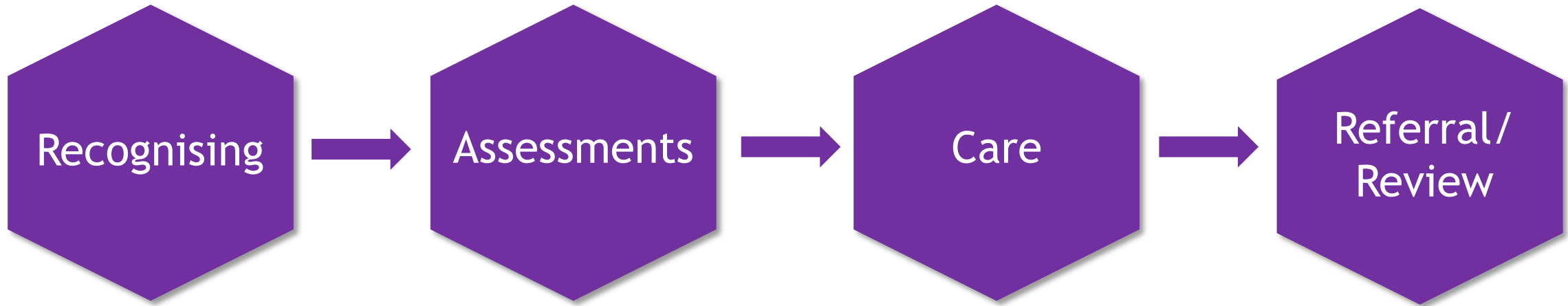
- GP
- Hospital outreach
- Physiotherapist
- Geriatric review
- Podiatrist, Optometrist, OT

Monitor vital signs & cognitive state  
Documentation, handover & inform resident representative



# Palliative Care

EDDIE<sup>+</sup>



- Changes in pain & comfort levels
- Evidence of existential distress
- Family/carer concerns or observations
- Increased frailty, weakness, illness progression, weight loss
- Decreased mobility, appetite, cognition, consciousness level
- Change in emotional and spiritual well being

- Vital signs
- Pain Assessment PQRST, numerical, Abbey, M-RVBPI, PAINAD, McGill
- FBC, including swallowing & nutrition
- Medication review
- Head to toe assessment
- Clinical Frailty Scale
- SPICt

- Facilitate resident and representative wishes and plans (ACD, AHD, ACP, EPOA)
- Implement end of life care planning & pathway
- Physical care and aids
- Organise and maintain cultural, spiritual, psychosocial support

- GP
- Hospital outreach
- Specialist palliative care services referral
- Allied health professionals

Monitor vital signs & cognitive state  
Documentation, handover & inform resident representative

# Clinical Parameters

- **Serious/Life Threatening** zone - Do not leave the resident unattended; seek urgent medical review
- **Caution** zone - Increase frequency of monitoring-vital signs assessment; request a medical review
- **Normal** zone - Address any resident complaints or issues

## Remember!

The parameters are a guide

They do not substitute for clinical judgment or reasoning

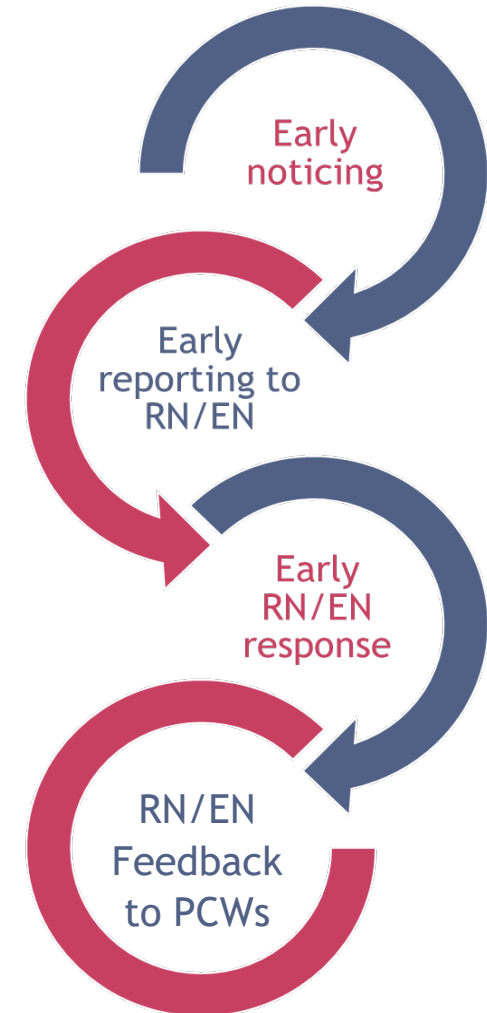
## EDDIE<sup>+</sup>

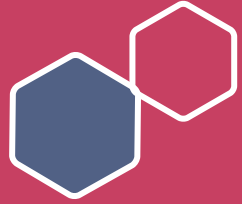
### Deterioration Parameters

CATEGORIES	NORMAL	CAUTION	SERIOUS / LIFE THREATENING
ACTIONS	Seek medical review of complaint or issue	Seek medical <u>increase frequency of monitoring</u>	URGENT MEDICAL REVIEW <u>Do not leave the resident unattended</u>
HEAT RATE (BEATS/MIN)	50 - 100	40 - 49 or 101 - 130	<40 or >130
SYSTOLIC (mmHg)	110 - 180 <i>(or range specified by GP for resident)</i>	90 - 109 or 181 - 200 <i>(or higher in well resident)</i>	<90 or >200 symptomatic
RESPIRATORY RATE (BREATHS/MINUTE)	10 - 24	6 - 9 or 25 - 30	<6 or >30
O <sub>2</sub> SATURATIONS	92-100% with or without O <sub>2</sub> <i>(or normal for resident)</i>	88-91% <u>with O<sub>2</sub> given</u>	<88% <u>with O<sub>2</sub> given</u>
RESPIRATORY EFFORT	Typical for resident	Abnormal, laboured or noisy Not typical for resident	Distress and/or cyanosis <u>with O<sub>2</sub> given</u>
TEMPERATURE	35.6°C - 37.7°C	35°C - 35.5°C or 37.8°C - 39°C Temperature Baseline +1.5°C	<35°C or >39°C
RESPONSIVENESS	Alert, cognition normal for resident	Not alert, but responds to voice	Responsive to pain only or Newly unresponsive or Sudden change in mental state
PAIN	Nil, or tolerable with or without analgesia	Observable discomfort with analgesia	Highly distressed with analgesia
BLOOD GLUCOSE (MMOL/L)	6 - 15 <i>(or range specified by GP for resident)</i>	4 - 5.9 or <4 responsive to treatment or Persistently >15 in <u>well</u> resident	< 4 AND unresponsive to treatment or Persistently >15 in <u>unwell</u> resident

# PCW's- communication tools for reporting **EDDIE<sup>+</sup>**

CUS
I am <u>C</u> oncerned about...
I feel <u>U</u> ncomfortable because...
This is a <u>S</u> erious/ <u>S</u> afety issue, can you please...





From today I will.....

