

Assessment of Awareness of Actions (Understanding & Appreciation): Appendix C

Assessment of the sexual behaviour and identification of the terms under which the relationship between the two individuals/residents will be supported should also include a determination of the resident(s) awareness of actions: the ability to understand and appreciate, to participate in a relationship. Lichtenburg (1997) and Lichtenburg and Strzepak (1990) suggest that the following questions be asked to identify the conditions and circumstances a relationship is supported to continue.

1. Resident's Awareness of the Relationship:

- a) Is the resident aware of who is initiating the sexual contact?
Yes No
Comments: _____
- b) Does the resident believe that the other person is a spouse or partner?
Yes No Comments: _____
- c) Are they aware of the other's identity and intent? Yes No
Comments: _____
- d) Can the resident state what level of sexual intimacy they would be comfortable with? Yes No
Comments: _____

2. Resident's Ability to Avoid Exploitation:

- a) Is the behaviour consistent with formerly held beliefs/ values?
Yes No
Comments: _____
- b) Does the resident have the capacity to say no (verbally or non-verbally) to any uninvited sexual contact? Yes No
Comments: _____

3. Resident's Awareness of Potential Risks:

- a) Does the resident realize that this relationship may be time limited?
Yes No
Comments: _____
- b) Can the resident describe how they will react when the relationship ends?
Yes No
Comments: _____

Is the resident able to respond to questions adequately (verbally or non-verbally)?

Completed by: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Adapted from:

Lichtenburg, P.A. (1997). Clinical perspectives on sexual issues in nursing homes. *Top Geriatric Rehabilitation*, 12, 1-10.

Lichtenburg, P., Strzepak, D. (1990). Assessments of institutionalized dementia patient's competencies to participate in intimate relationships. *Gerontologist*, 30(1), 117-120