

Confusion

Questions from the healthcare provider

When did the confusion start? Did it come on suddenly?

- Has it been increasing slowly over the past few days?
- Did it begin in the morning, evening, bedtime?

Have there been previous episodes of confusion, such as after surgery?

- Is there a history of dementia?
- How bad is the confusion? Mild, moderate, or severe?
- Rating confusion on a scale from 0 to 10 is helpful. Zero means no confusion, while 10 means the worst possible.

How does the person behave when confused? Picking at the air or the sheets on the bed?

- Loud voice, yelling, hitting? Talking in ways that don't seem to make much sense?
- Seeming frightened or distressed? Does the person see, feel, or hear things that other people don't?

What makes the confusion worse? What makes the confusion better?

What medications is the person currently taking? When are they taken?

- How long has the person been taking them?
- Have there been any side effects experienced from taking these medications?

Does the confusion affect the person's safety?

- Does the confusion affect the safety of anyone in the home?

What are the goals and expectations of care? Does the person have a healthcare directive?

- Is there a desire to have tests and treatments for problems that might be treatable?