



Decision Guide Case Study No. 3 Probable Pneumonia

Brief Case History

Mrs. Hong is an 81-year-old retired schoolteacher who was admitted to the hospital for hip surgery (Open Reduction Internal Fixation or ORIF) after a recent fall and hip fracture. Her past medical history includes COPD, osteoarthritis, coronary artery disease, and congestive heart failure (CHF). She was transferred to your facility 5 days ago for rehab with the ultimate goal to return to living independently at home. She has never been admitted to a nursing home before and her family is very anxious about the quality of care she will receive. The hospital case manager told your admissions nurse that her family believes nursing homes are where people go to die.

Change in Condition

Two days after admission to your facility:

- The CNA notes that Mrs. Hong isn't herself early in the morning, that she is somewhat anxious and seems to be a little confused.
- Mrs. Hong is not interested in breakfast and did not go to therapy.

The Nurse Practitioner (NP) assessed the patient and concluded the patient has pneumonia that can be treated with antibiotics at the nursing home.

Case Study Analysis for Discussion:

- 1) Knowing this family is anxious, and using the Decision Guide as a tool, what is your next course of action in this case?
- 2) Is it appropriate to discuss readmission issues with the resident at this time?
- 3) Should you call the patient's anxious family, and if so, what would you say?
- 4) Should you discuss the possible readmission with the doctor or NP and if so, what should you say?
- 5) Using information learned in the Decision Guide, are there any other actions that will help to prevent a hospital transfer?