

REMINDER

HEALTH & SAFETY: RECOGNIZING CHANGE IN STATUS

Description of Issue and Importance

Everyone experiences periods of illness. People with intellectual/developmental disabilities are no different. However, they may have difficulty communicating how they feel or when something is different. People we support count on us to identify changes and to respond to those changes appropriately.

Recommended Action and Prevention Strategy

- Even little changes may be a clue that something is wrong.
- Recognizing and responding to change in status can result in appropriate measures to ensure maximum health and the highest degree of comfort for the person.
- Early identification of changes can save a person's life.
- Don't assume any change is insignificant or too minor to note and report.
- Persons who know the individual well can best identify a subtle, but perhaps significant, change in status.

Related Resources

“Responding To Change in Status” Reminder

“Recognizing Change in Status” Fact Sheet and Electronic Fact Sheet

“Signs and Symptoms of Change in Status” Handout

“Responding to Change in Status” Fact Sheet and Electronic Fact Sheet

Outreach Services

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