



Complicated Management

A comprehensive approach to clinical assessment of those with ID requires **more thought and time** as the individual ages. Support persons often accompany a person with ID to appointments with health professionals. Support persons are an invaluable source of information and assistance especially when the individual they support has **difficulty in expressing their concerns and problems** to a health professional. Aged individuals with ID who present with changes in behaviour, function or both require a **comprehensive assessment**. Understanding the changes that you observe may be difficult because individuals often have **more than one issue affecting the change**. It is not uncommon for multiple care providers to have **differing opinions or ideas** about the cause of a person's problems. Aged individuals with ID are often **not able to fully explain their problems** in ways that are readily understood by others.

Unfortunately, illnesses that are identified in aged individuals with ID are often in **advanced stages**. It is essential to objectively identify the causes of the changes in behaviour and function so that the necessary solutions can be provided. This assessment process is often referred to as a **biopsychosocial assessment**. In this process, we are looking at "just the facts." We are collecting relevant information about what you see (observational) and not making conclusions.

Responding to the health needs of aging individuals with ID requires a collaboration and combined input from:

- the individual
- family members
- support persons
- medical staff
- non-medical providers
- allied health professionals

[Information Sheet No. 3 has a corresponding Challenge Sheet No. C3]