

Script for standardized patient

YEPSA

Geriatrics

Standardized Patient Information

You're Mrs. Jones, an 85-year-old widow. You live alone in your own home in Madison and have lived here for 60 years. You have one daughter who lives in Arizona. You were visiting her a month ago and developed pneumonia, requiring hospitalization for a week. You are a retired book keeper. You were in the hospital for few days and then returned to WI. Prior to the pneumonia, you were able to do all your chores and take care of yourself. You played cards with your friends every week. You volunteered your time for your church and help with the book keeping. You have become very weak since the hospitalization and have trouble with your memory. This is a new problem for you.

First open ended question: *"Can you tell me why you're here/I understand you're here because your daughter is concerned?"*: Answer: "My daughter is worried about me because she thinks I'm not doing very well at home since I got out of the hospital, and I guess I don't think I'm doing very well either." Second open-ended question *"Can you tell me anything else?/What do you think about that?"*: Answer: "I'm just not doing as well as I was before I got sick, and I'd like to feel better." If the student asks, "tell me about your function?" You say that "my daughter is concerned about my weakness and wanted me to get checked". Wait for the student to ask further specific questions about function.

When you were in the hospital with pneumonia, you were having trouble falling asleep (a new problem for you) and were given a sleeping pill (temazepam) that helped and you have been taking it regularly since. You also take over the counter Tylenol pm for pain. *"How is your sleep doing now?"* I'm not on my regular sleep schedule yet, so my sleep isn't very good at night. I often nap in the day for an hour or so and I sleep about 6 hours at night, but I get up a couple of times. I can fall asleep ok. You are NOT depressed, so if the student starts to ask about appetite change, lack of enjoyment of interests, guilt, hopelessness, etc, you should deny these. Nonetheless, you are not very spontaneously conversational and should appear tired but NOT depressed. You just want to get back to your normal way of functioning. If asked, you have trouble concentrating on card games that you used to like playing.

"Do you notice any difference in your memory?" Answer: "Yes, I used to be a book-keeper and was sharp as a tack, but now I sometimes get turned around in my own house. And this has been only going on since I got home from Arizona. I forget things too, like if I've taken my medicine." You have not been able to play cards or go back to church. You tried playing cards with your friends, but could not follow the conversation and got very tired and had to come home. If asked, offer that rarely you see shadows, particularly at night, when it's getting dark in your house, and at the time you think the shadows are people, but they're not. Once or twice you thought you saw a squirrel or

cat in the house, but you know that's impossible. Be careful to not concern the student that you're having psychotic hallucinations or delusions.

If the student asks about your activities of daily living, you say you were able to do every thing before the hospitalization, but now you are having trouble with some things. If asked "*How do you spend your day?*" You fix your meals, watch TV, and nap, but you are no longer taking little trips in your car to the grocery, to church, or to visit friends for cards and coffee. You are having problems with walking, and getting in and out of bed. You are also having trouble bathing and getting up from the toilet. You have not been able to leave the house since your return.

If the student asks about medication, you say you were started on some new blood pressure pills in the hospital (clonidine, lisinopril). They gave you a pill for your incontinence even though "it wasn't that bad" You can show a medication list "made by the nice nurse at the hospital". If asked for more details, you can tell them you also take pills for your heart (digoxin). Don't tell them about over the counter medications unless they ask about it (Tylenol PM and a vitamin).

Medication List: (We will create a copy of a handwritten chart that will be available to every SP to give to the student) Aspirin, Lisinopril, Clonidine, Meperidine, Digoxin, Oxybutynin, Temazepam

Over-the-counter Medications: Tylenol PM and a vitamin

Mrs. Jones' Medication List:

Aspirin

Clonidine

Digoxin

Lisinopril

Meperidine

Oxybutynin

Temazepam