

EXAMPLE OF HIGH RISK: DO NOT DELEGATE



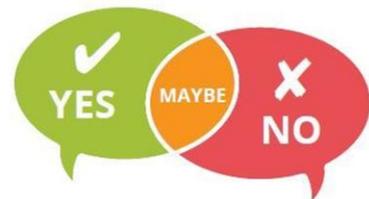
SITUATION

Ernest is an 84 year old man who has been admitted to hospital with an extension of a pre-existing stroke he had 12 months ago. He is orientated and although drowsy most days, he has capacity and is able to provide consent for care and treatment. He has been agitated since admission due to the further loss of movement he has experienced, and mild slurring of his speech. His pressure points were assessed on admission and Ernest was deemed high risk for pressure damage with a Braden Score of 10. He is exhibiting signs of depression related to his rehabilitation and is refusing to be assisted out of bed.



ASSESSMENT

Ben, the Deputy Charge Nurse, is responsible for Ernest's care on shift. He receives handover from Monica on nightshift, and realises that Ernest will need significant assistance with his personal hygiene, mobility, nutritional and psychosocial needs. Working with him on the team is Asha a senior nursing assistant. They are looking after 8 people together, with a range of acuity and dependency needs. Ben knows Asha has worked in the ward team for 5 years and is very used to working with people who have experienced stroke. She has undertaken training in specialist moving and handling techniques and is competent to assist Ernest. Ben's initial assessment leaves him uneasy about delegating Ernest's personal care to Asha.



DECISION

Ben decides to use the delegation decision support tool to reflect on his initial professional judgement. He decides that a nursing assessment of Ernest is required whilst undertaking the tasks associated particularly with his personal hygiene needs and skin assessment. This task requires a level of clinical judgement that is outside of Asha's competence. He assures himself that he cannot describe all of the elements that Asha needs to look for in a succinct instruction, and additionally, given Ernest's low mood and agitation, a psychosocial assessment can be undertaken whilst caring for his personal needs. Ben decides not to delegate the task to Asha.