

Things to remember:

- Infection may be present without a fever.
- Pneumonia may be present without a productive cough.
- Bladder infection may be present without pain when urinating or the feeling of needing to go more often.
- A sudden mental and/or physical change from what's usual can indicate an infection.
- Indicators of infection can include agitation, excessive tiredness, sudden change in personality, or the loss of interest in activities.

What do I do?

Call your care provider if there is suspicion of infection.

Providers Phone numbers:

Specific questions or details:

Infection in the Elderly

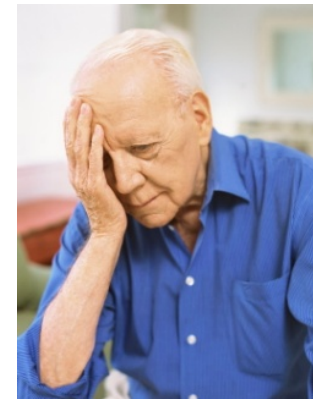
Helping you recognize the unusual signs of infection that can appear in the elderly.

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Adapted from Fulmer, T. (1991)
Lippincott Williams & Wilkins



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What do I watch for?

Mental changes

- ➔ NEW confusion
- ➔ Change in personality
- ➔ Loss of interest in favorite activities

Physical changes

- ➔ Increase in FALLS
- ➔ NEW or worsened bowel/bladder control
- ➔ More TIRED than usual

Other possible changes

- ➔ Change in ability to do familiar routines
- ➔ Decrease in eating or drinking

What do I take note of?

❶ What's normal for this person?

Is there any confusion? How is it manifest?

❷ What's new for this person?

❸ When did this start?

❶ What's normal for this person?

How often do they fall?

How much do they sleep?

❷ What's new for this person?

❸ When did this start?

❶ What's normal for this person?

What's their usual routine?

How much do they eat and drink?

❷ What's new for this person?

❸ When did this start?
