1-146 Monitoring Cholinergics

TIPS Question:

What guidelines would you suggest to a case manager regarding client follow up with a cognitive enhancer? For example, when would you repeat the Folstein once a cognitive enhancer has been started?

Response:

Cognitive enhancers including Aricept, Exelon and Reminyl are all considered helpful to cognition, activities of daily living (ADL), behaviours and caregiver time in assisting and/or supervising patients. It is therefore important to do MMSE or equivalent on monthly basis after a baseline measure is being done. I also suggest to case managers to inquire about the change in ADL (basic and instrumental), behaviour change and the level of caregiver stress at the same time. Ideally a positive change in these domains is certainly encouraging in deciding to continue the cognitive enhancer after the first 6 months trial while watching for side effects, particularly GI symptoms.

Please note: *TIPS information should be used similar to the way you would use information from a text book! TIPS is not intended to serve as an individual consultation service! P.I.E.C.E.S. participants should use this information in context and always work closely with the family physician involved in the care of the resident or client and with other Partners In Care to find solutions to individual resident/client issues.*