**Difficult Behaviors (Change in Behavior)**  
These are some examples of difficult behaviors (Change in Behavior)  
·Restlessness  
·Agitation  
·Combativeness, aggressiveness  
·Restlessness and wandering  
·Mood swings  
·Hallucinations  
·Mistrust  
·Over-controlling behavior  
·Critical and demanding behavior.

**Assess for pain, med side effects, hydration, nutrition, comfort, lack of activity, fatigue, sensory loss-e.g. hearing aids, check dentures, assess environment-too hot or cold or loud (TV) etc.**

**What is altered mental status? (Mental Status changes)**

Altered mental status (AMS) is a disruption in how the brain works that causes a change in behavior. This change can happen suddenly or over days. AMS ranges from slight confusion to total disorientation and increased sleepiness to coma.

* **Diseases or conditions in the body that can affect the brain and nervous system:**
  + Hypoxia (low oxygen levels)
  + Low or high blood sugar levels, or diabetic ketoacidosis
  + Heart attack
  + Dehydration, low or high blood sodium levels
  + Thyroid or adrenal gland disease
  + Urinary tract infection or renal failure
* **Diseases or conditions within the skull:**
  + Seizures
  + Head traumas, concussions

Brain tumors or strokes

Call designated provider

If minor symptoms

Persist at 24 hours

If **≥1 major symptom**

Develops at any time

Check vital signs every 8 hours over a

24-hour period

Assess for major symptoms every 8 hours

Hydrate for 24 hours

Treat constipation if present

Address sleep deprivation if present

**MINOR SYMPTOMS**

Change in urination pattern

(frequency, incontinence)

Change in behavior

Suprapubic pain

Change in urine color, smell, or consistency

Implement ordered antibiotic regimen

Document start and end date

Obtain urinalysis/urine culture

Notify designated provider

**MAJOR SYMPTOMS: ≥ 1**

Fever (oral temperature ≥ 100˚F [≥37.8˚C]

Or change from baseline of 2˚F [1.1˚C]

Pain on urination

Mental status changes

Blood in urine

Flank pain

**Urinary Tract Infection Suspected**