

Takes Medicine the Wrong Way

<p><u>I</u>dentify the Problem</p>	<p><u>PROBLEM:</u> Takes Medicine the Wrong Way</p> <p><u>GOAL/EXPECTED OUTCOME:</u> To improve medication management, compliance, and safety</p>
<p><u>E</u>xplore</p>	<p><u>ASSESS FURTHER:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What medication is the person taking? Can the caregiver make a list? • Is there anything that is causing the person to have trouble taking medications the way they were prescribed? • Is the person taking medications on his/her own? • Is the person refusing to take medications? • How often does the person have trouble with medications? • Where are the medications being kept? • Are all of the medications stored in the same place? • Has the person been showing any sudden and unusual changes in cognition and/or behavior?
<p><u>A</u>adjust</p> <p>Problem solve with interventions and actions</p>	<p><u>TEACH PROBLEM-SOLVING STRATEGIES TO CAREGIVER:</u></p> <p>As Alzheimer’s disease progresses, the caregiver will need to take over medication management. Caregivers will not be able to rely on the person with Alzheimer’s to take medications on his/her own</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not leave the person alone to take his/her medication • Watch closely. Make sure the person: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Takes the right pills and the right amounts ○ Takes medications at the right times ○ Follows the directions on the medication • Lock away medications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Do not leave medications in a pill box or cup on the counter ○ Make sure all medications are out of sight and out of reach • Talk to ALL the doctors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Talk to the doctor about any medications that may have been prescribed by separate provider ○ Do not stop giving any medication without asking the prescribing doctor first ○ Bring all medications in a bag or box to every doctor visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Include vitamins, herbs, teas, creams, and other pills from the drugstore ○ Ask the doctor if medications can be mixed into food or drinks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This may be helpful if you are having trouble getting the person to take his/her pills ○ Ask the person’s doctor about switching to medications that last longer so the person does not have to take them as often ○ Ask the person’s doctor about the possible side effects of each medication • Try setting alarms for when medications need to be taken • Help the person get to the pharmacy or have the medications delivered to the home

	<p><u>CLINICAL SUPPORT:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to PCP if there is ANY sudden and unusual change in person’s cognition and/or behavior. It could be caused by a medication reaction, medication interaction, or a new illness • Refer to pharmacist to review all medications • Refer to PCP or pharmacist to discuss any difficulties with medication administration and compliance • Refer to PCP or pharmacist to discuss alternative methods of medication administration, such as crushing pills or longer-lasting dosages <hr/> <p><u>CAREGIVER SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen empathically to caregiver and evaluate for level of distress • Refer to IHSS • Refer to Home and Community-Based Services Planning and Management (HCBS CPM) formerly MSSP • Refer to Alzheimer’s Los Angeles for support groups, disease education, and care consultation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ALZ Direct Connect® referral ○ Provide Helpline #: 844.HELP.ALZ 844.435.7259 ○ Website: www.alzheimersla.org • Send literature: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Caregiver Tip Sheet – “Medications” (English and Spanish) <hr/> <p><u>FOLLOW UP:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule a phone call with caregiver to discuss outcomes and provide additional support
	<p><u>NOTES:</u></p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>