

Suggested answers to case study part 2

1. How is the MND affecting Jenny at the moment?

Lower limbs – needing a frame and not managing the stairs

Upper Limbs – hands weaker and less dextrous

Swallow – slowing down, voice also likely to be quieter. Has she lost any weight?

Mood – irritable and less flexible. Unclear from this what else might be going on eg low in mood or anxiety?

Illness is affecting her ability to work, to be independent and her relationships

2. Is there anything else you would want to ask her about now?

Ask more about her relationship and how she is managing. Ask her about her mood and her concerns around Douglas. In what way are they not as close? Ask more about her financial situation – has she claimed any benefits. Ask her about her diet and swallow. Ask how she is managing her personal care and if she would be amenable to help.

3. Who from the MDT should Jenny meet with now?

Dietician, SLT, DNs, social services, palliative care referral

4. What specifically do you want them to assess and provide support with? Document the information you need to pass on for each referral.

SLT and dietician = review of dietary intake and consistency, weight and introduce discussions around artificial feeding.

Referral: Include current diet, issues with swallow, how food is obtained and prepared, desire not to change, and communication. Include negatives – artificial feeding has not been discussed.

OT – review her current mobility and look at the downstairs bathroom.

Referral: include mobility in the downstairs bathroom and fall in particular. Functional ability eg when washing. Wet room not ready yet.

District Nurses – introduce the DN role including discussing care options, pressure relieving equipment.

Referral: concise account of illness till now. Include current problems with regards to personal care and who is around to assist. Other professionals involved, what equipment is in place.

Social services assessment if she will agree – could include a referral form?

Consider palliative care referral or neurology nurse referral for support for Jenny and Douglas (depending on your service)

Referral: concise account of illness till now. Impact on her daily living, who is around her, what are her issues at the moment.

5. Who can support Douglas?

MND care clinic, MND Association visitors, GP, DNs, palliative care team.(depends on the service)