

## **Strategies to Support Sleep**

Unit Interventions: Choose priorities from each category that would most improve sleep in your facility/unit		
Identify and Address Sleep Disruptions	Night time Rounds: what would be a less disruptive way to check on the safety of patients? Continence Care: Identify those who don't like to be wet or are at risk for skin breakdown. Who needs a super absorbent or night time product? What time should it go on? Repositioning: Identify patients who move by themselves, even a little. Turn only those who don't move at all ("wedge" don't "flip"!) Noise: identify staff-generated noise and strategies to reduce (squeaky carts, night cleaning and stocking routines, staff paperwork and communication). Light: identify light sources that may disrupt sleep (TV, street lights, hall or bathroom light, computer) Stimulation: identify sources of evening stimulation (light, noise, caffeine) and strategies to reduce Medication routines: reschedule medication administration times to avoid waking patients Other:	
Promote Sleep	Increase day time light exposure e.g. during meals (sunny window, full spectrum or blue light) Accommodate individual bed time routines Toilet patients before sleep Decrease night time light exposure: flashlights for safety rounds (red filter), dim hall lighting Increase day time activity: e.g. walking minimum 3 times per day, exercise Minimize day time naps: no more than 1 hour Warm patients before sleep: e.g. bath, warm blanket Reduce overheating during sleep: number of blankets, facility temperature if possible Re-evaluate need for and timing of labwork and assessments Other:	
Support Patient Night time Needs	Night time cues: e.g. unit is quiet, dimly lit, staff attend to dementia patients in fuzzy housecoats  Routines for when patients wake up: toilet, offer drink and/or snack, pain relief if required, warm blanket and back to bed, sit with them for a brief time if that comforts them  Night snacks available Safe place to wander or do quiet activity Other:	
Comments:		



Interventions for Individual Patients: start with 1-2 patients		
Decrease Antipsychotics Used for Sleep, as well as Other Sedatives	Identify antipsychotics prescribed for sleep; gradually reduce dose/discontinue   Identify use of other h.s. sedatives; gradually reduce dose/discontinue   Evaluate need for medications that may interfere with sleep such as: statins, acid blockers, anticholinergics, bisphosphonates, timing of antidepressants & diuretics   Evaluate need for medications that may reduce melatonin levels such as: calcium channel blockers, SSRIs (fluoxetine), beta blockers, NSAIDs   Discuss medication needs and proposed changes with prescriber, family/alt decision maker	
Identify Person- Centred Strategies to Enhance Sleep	Discuss with family/alternate decision maker: previous sleep patterns (what time they went to bed and got up), lifestyle habits and experiences, what helps patient relax e.g. music Identify what may disrupt patient sleep: itchy skin, restless legs, roommate, noise, snoring/sleep apnea, caffeine in the evening, uncomfortable bed, nocturnal cough, hot flashes, nightmares, leg cramps, congestive heart failure, acid reflux  Modify care plan to maximize sleep: individualized bed time and nap requirements, continence care, need for turning, pain and hs medications, white noise (e.g. fan), night light requirements (e.g. red bulb in nightlight)  Individualized routine if awake at night: toilet, offer drink and/or snack, pain relief if required, warm blanket and back to bed	
·	For fluctuating sleep/wake cycles, discuss how they slept at shift change:  o If they slept poorly, they might need to sleep in, or rest in the afternoon. o If they slept poorly, evaluate if they napped too long the day before o Consider whether the patient requires more rest to support healing or health issues o Given how the day went, might the patient be ready to sleep earlier or later than usual?	
Comments:		