Pooles Algorithm: Nursing Management if Disturbed Behaviour in Older People

Aggressive, Confused or Inappropriate Behaviour

- Is the person Aggressive?
  - Yes: AGGRESSION
    - Aim for safety - look for a stressor and remedy
    - Could there be medical problems?
      - No
      - Yes: Could there be other medical problems?
        - No
        - Yes: Could there be other medical problems?
          - No
          - Yes: Plan Ongoing Care
            - Yes
  - No

- Could the person have Delirium?
  - Yes: DELIRIUM
    - Assess and treat cause
    - Could there be medical problems?
      - No
      - Yes: Could there be other medical problems?
        - No
        - Yes: Could there be other medical problems?
          - No
          - Yes: Plan Ongoing Care
            - Yes
  - No

- Could the person have Depression or a Mental Disorder?
  - Yes: DEPRESSION
    - or other mental disorder
    - Assess and treat problem
    - Could there be medical problems?
      - No
      - Yes: Could there be other medical problems?
        - No
        - Yes: Could there be other medical problems?
          - No
          - Yes: Plan Ongoing Care
            - Yes
  - No

- Could the person have Dementia?
  - Yes: DEMENTIA
    - Assess and plan management
    - Plan Ongoing Care
      - Yes
  - No

Adapted from: Poole, J 2002, Pooles Algorithm: Acute Care: Nursing management of distributed behaviour in older people in acute care, Sydney; Department of Aged Care and Rehabilitation Medicine, Royal North Shore Hospital & Community Health Services