

## **PERSONAL INJURY CASES - POTENTIAL CONCERNS AND RED FLAGS**

*Are you aware of all the potential concerns and red flags for your clients?*

### **POTENTIAL CONCERNS:**

#### TYPE OF DWELLING:

- As in one or two story.
- If two story, how well does that individual navigate stairs?
- Are there accommodations, as in ramps?
- Is pain worsened by stair usage?

#### HISTORY OF RECENT MOVE:

- Increased risk of stress and pain with recent move.
- Is pain related to event at hand or recent move?

#### FAMILY STRESS – CAREGIVING:

- Increased stress contributing to anxiety or depression?
- Care giving with potential for bending, lifting, moving and pulling.
- Is pain then related to care giving or injury?

#### EDUCATIONAL LEVEL;

- Higher educational level with better understanding of disease/ increased compliance or limited time for care with work schedule.
- Lower educational level- ability to understand all components of care or limited resources to adhere to care (available transportation)?

#### EMPLOYMENT CONCERNS:

- Any accommodations to stay?
- Limited recreational hours to adhere to care plan?

## **POTENTIAL RED FLAGS:**

### **OBESITY**

- Important to consider BMI in all cases – WC, PI or med mal.
- Increased risk of arthritis, back pain and joint pain.
- Increased risk factor for diabetes and certain cancers.
- Increased risk factor for poor surgical results.
- Increased risk factor for breathing problems as in sleep apnea - important for anesthesia considerations and pain control.
- Increased risk factor for cardiovascular disease and stroke.
- Possible difficulty in providing care due to size.
- Difficulty with transportation hampered (public or medical transportation)?

### **SMOKING**

- Vital to obtain this information in all cases- civil and criminal.
- Increased problems with pain control.
- Contribute to poor healing, as in surgery cases.
- In dental cases, increased risk of poor outcome and healing.
- Increased risk factor for cancers.
- Increased risk factor for autoimmune diseases and type 2 diabetes.
- Increased risk factor for decreased bone density/ osteoporosis (fall risk and poor healing).
- Increased risk factor for cardiac and vascular diseases .
- Increased risk of vision problems.
- Did patient adhere to smoking cessation recommendations?

### **DEPRESSION**

- Risk of poor outcome - not following medical advice.
- Difficulty with pain control.
- Difficulty with sleeping- not enough or too much.
- Increased risk factor for alcohol and drugs.
- Increased risk factor for heart disease.
- Increased risk factor for infections and diseases.

***See how we can ensure the best position for you and your client;  
providing medical record analysis, DME attendance, chronology of events,  
appropriateness of charges and cost projections.***