

End-of-life care for people with dementia

Care in the last days and hours of life

Activity

Read the following case study and try to answer the questions that follow below.

Betty is a 68-year-old woman with advanced dementia. She has been deteriorating for the past six weeks both mentally and physically. Over the past few days she has become less aware of her surroundings and today she is not conscious. Her daughter Jane has spent the last 24 hours sitting by her mum's bedside. Betty has been comfortable all night but this morning when you go to see her she appears restless, quite hot to touch and you notice her breathing is becoming 'bubbly'. Jane is becoming distressed seeing her mum in this way.

1. What could you do to make Betty more comfortable?
2. Who would you inform about Betty's change in condition? What symptoms would you report and why?
3. How could you support Jane?