

Serious Illness Conversation Guide role play COVID case one

Diabetes, hypertension and mild chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) - Mr./Mrs. Williams

Character's clinical problem

Mrs./Mr. Samantha/Samuel (Sam) Williams is a 75 year-old retired postie who has a history of diabetes, hypertension and mild COPD. Last winter s/he developed a bad chest infection and required several courses of antibiotics and a course of steroids.

Sam is still active at home and in the community, though finds s/he has to take things at a slightly slower pace than when he/she first retired. S/he enjoys gardening and volunteers at the local community allotment.

Day 6: Mrs./Mr. Williams has a six day history of cough, fevers, body aches and increasing shortness of breath. S/he was notified yesterday that the swab taken at the general practice has confirmed a diagnosis of COVID-19.

You are working in a community setting and have been asked to follow up with Mrs./Mr Williams via a video link, to talk about her/his diagnosis and what it might mean.

At this stage recovery is hopeful.

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Day 9: Mrs./Mr. Williams has continued to deteriorate and has required hospital admission. S/he has severe shortness of breath and increasing O2 requirements.

Recovery is now uncertain.