

PHYSICIAN'S QUICK GUIDE FOR USING THE NTG- EDSD

The NTG-EDSD is a brief administrative screen that agencies and families use to record observable function and behavior when suspecting that dementia may be present



National Task Group
on Intellectual Disabilities
and Dementia Practices

www.the-ntg.org

What is the NTG-EDSD? The National Task Group Early Detection Screen for Dementia was created in 2013 for use as an administrative screen for MCI or dementia in adults with an intellectual disability. The NTG-EDSD has been validated by researchers and clinicians as a useful and reliable means of recording basic information associated with typical indicators of changes in function. It is available in English, Spanish, French, and many other languages.

What information is collected? Information on co-incident conditions, whether medical or behavioral, the person's typical performance on common tasks, medications prescribed, and whether notable behaviors are new or long-standing. Most information may be static and drawn from the adult's medical or individual care plan. Other, usually dynamic and observable, information is obtained from the adult, others in the adult's home or day services environment, or from persons who provide clinical services.

How is it used? Disability agency staff or family members complete the NTG-EDSD based on their knowledge and observations of an adult with an intellectual disability. They then check their notations with others who know the adult and organize a summary of the information and questions that they bring with them. You can look over the form and ASK THEM about their concerns or suspicions.

Is it designed to diagnose? NO. The NTG-EDSD is designed to help a clinician be informed about changes his/her patient may be experiencing. This may then be used to further monitor changes or conduct an assessment to rule out potential causes including MCI or dementia.

How can you use it? LISTEN to the parent or staff person, LOOK OVER the form, and ASK QUESTIONS. You may wish to ask the parent or staff person to explain why they noted certain items on the form. You may also ask them to return after some interval with a newly completed form – so you can determine whether certain changes are static or dynamic.

When is the NTG-EDSD recommended for use? The NTG-EDSD has been recognized as a useful dementia symptoms or indicators screening tool in guidelines issued by the **Medical Care Guidelines for Adults with Down Syndrome Workgroup** (*JAMA*. 2020;324[15]:1543-56) and in **Primary Care of Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities** (*Can Fam Physician*. 2018;Apr;64[4]:254-79). It has also been recommended for use as part of the cognitive impairment assessment at the Annual Wellness Visit for Medicare eligible adults with an intellectual disability. More information is available at www.the-ntg.org/ntg-edsd.

The mission of the NTG is to advocate for services and supports for people with intellectual disability and their families who are affected by Alzheimer's disease and dementias.
