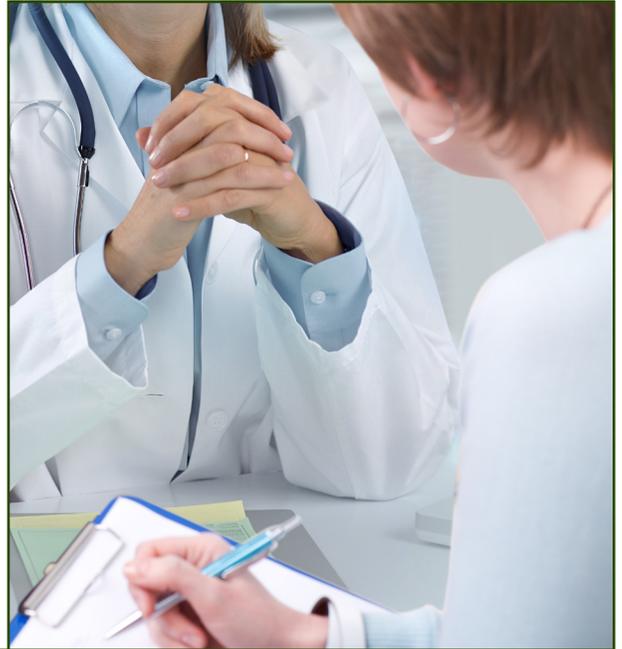


WellQor Success Stories**WellQor clinician enables Earl, 96, to remain in a more independent environment****The Challenge:**

- WellQor is a leading national provider of behavioral health solutions for older adults. WellQor strives to ensure the health of patients is considered holistically, recognizing the intrinsic link between physical and mental health. This holistic approach is designed to optimize the health of patients, and the wealth of knowledge carried by WellQor clinicians about the specific needs and behaviors of seniors allows for targeted health interventions. For older adults, elevated levels of stress associated with physical decline or dramatic change can trigger mental health episodes. In these instances, targeted interventions are needed in order to prevent outcomes involving psychiatric hospitalizations and elevated levels of care.
- Jean Duranti, a WellQor Licensed Clinical Social Worker, was tasked with conducting therapy sessions for Earle, a 96 year old male who had recently been placed in assisted living. Earle was placed in assisted living following a suicide attempt which resulted in a 72 hour hospitalization. Staff and family feared that Earle would attempt suicide again.
- Earle was reluctant to cooperate with staff and physicians in his community. He refused to follow the advice of medical professionals, and the directions of staff within his community. The community feared that without cooperation and communication, Earle's behavior would force him into a skilled nursing facility.

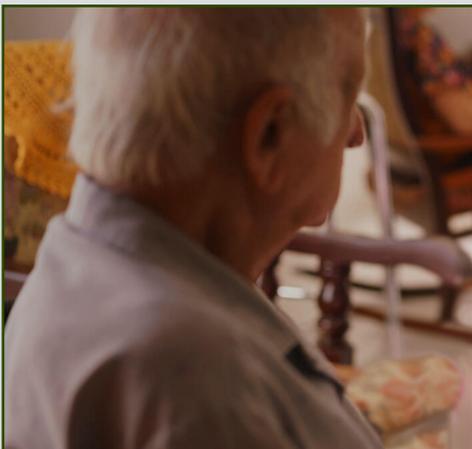
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When my blind, 96-year-old father started doing dangerous things, I had to place him in assisted living even though I knew he was against it. It was the hardest thing I'd ever done. Naturally, my father was furious, and I was an emotional wreck. Fortunately, Jean contacted me and made me aware of the psychological support services available to Dad through Wellqor...I attribute much of this improvement to Jean, who sees him once or twice a week to make sure his needs are being met. She problem-solves things that aren't working, either encouraging Dad to make changes and helping him learn new skills. My deepest thanks go out to Jean for her professionalism, expertise, and warm heart, and to Wellqor for making her services available to my father and me.

~ Patient's Daughter

The Solution:

- During initial therapy sessions, Jean determined that Earle was suffering from delusions related to his physical health. Earle had developed a treatable facial tumor complemented by an open wound. He revealed to Jean his belief that physicians were conspiring against him, and refused to take the advice of medical professionals seeking to alleviate the condition. Earle concocted alternative theories for his physical ailments, including descriptions of bugs burrowing into his skin.
- Jean found that Earle's severe depression was associated with physical decline. Earle was suffering from macular degeneration, and believed life wasn't worth living without his eyesight. Earle alluded to future suicide attempts as a way to escape his suffering.
- Jean began to conduct regular therapy sessions with Earle. She walked Earle through the reality of physical decline, and helped him come to terms with his loss of independence and ability.
- Jean also served as a liaison between Earle, facility staff, and physicians. Earle was accustomed to living independently, and felt overwhelmed by the attention he received from staff and physicians. Through facilitating those discussions, Jean was able to help Earle improve his relationship with the community.



The Results:

- With Jean's guidance, Earle began to cooperate with his physicians and staff. Earle began taking the advice of medical doctors. He also began to listen to the instructions of staff. This increased cooperation has allowed Earle to remain in assisted living.
- In the year following Jean's therapy interventions, Earle and his family members report a reduction in depressive symptoms. Earle has not repeated his attempt to commit suicide despite early intentions to do so. As such, Earle has avoided psychiatric hospitalization.