ST. FRANCIS 24/7 CALL CENTER: (321) 269-4240

St. Francis REFLECTIONS® Hospice
Established 1977 • Licensed 1990

Hallucinations

Hallucinations can occur due to medications, delirium, advanced disease processes, or metabolic imbalances. Hallucinations in the terminal patient are common and unless causing distress or impacting patient safety, hallucinations are typically harmless.

Common signs and symptoms to monitor for:

- Seeing people or objects not present
- Hearing voices and having conversations with people not present
- Reacting to invisible stimuli

Tips for Hallucinations Management:

- Stay calm and provide reassurance; avoid arguing about what is real.
- Create a safe, quiet environment to minimize confusion.
- Adjust lighting to reduce shadows that might be misinterpreted.
- Administer medications to manage hallucinations if prescribed.

Record and Report to St. Francis:

- **Immediately report any new onset of hallucinations causing distress or leading to unsafe behavior**
- Any identified precipitating factors
- Pharmacological and Non-Pharmacological interventions that assist
- Frequency, duration and severity of behaviors

St. Francis Reflections is always available to assist with any questions or concerns 24/7

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