

IPE Case Scenario

Part I:

Benjamin “Ben” Parker is a 71-year-old male who is retired and lives with his wife (May, age 67) and their nephew (Peter, age 16), who they have raised. Together, they live in a two-story home in a New York City neighborhood. Ben is retired from a career working in waste management for the city of New York. He is hard of hearing as the result of occupational hearing loss, but utilizes hearing aids to improve his ability to listen and communicate with others. He experiences chronic non-specific low back pain that he attributes to years of bending and lifting heavy waste bags. He has a history of right knee replacement (2017) as a result of progressed osteoarthritic changes. He takes medication to manage several chronic medical conditions including hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), and low back pain.

The Parkers live their day-to-day lives within a 15-minute radius of their home. Peter, a high school student, is able to walk to and from school. Both Ben and May are actively involved in their community, attending church and regularly volunteering, albeit separately, at different community organizations. May is frequently gone throughout the day, meeting with her book club and participating in recreational walking and water aerobics classes while Peter is in school. May cooks most of the meals and performs most of the household chores with exception of maintenance of the exterior home and yard. Much of the yardwork has become Peter’s primary responsibility as Ben’s back pain has limited his ability to perform home maintenance activities.

Ben has become increasingly forgetful, but passes it off as a sign of normal aging. He has missed several recent medical appointments and meetings at the volunteer community organization. He often cannot remember whether or not he ate. As a result, he has become noticeably thinner and more lethargic to those who see him less frequently than May and Peter.

As implied, his wife and nephew have yet to develop any considerable concern related to changes in Ben’s cognitive or physical status. This may be partly explained by their involvement away from the home throughout much of the day and their roles as primary caretakers of the home, limiting the potential for opportunities to identify signs of change in Ben’s cognition.

Identify Factors Related to Assigned Domain of the WHO:ICF Model:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

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Part II:

While driving from his home to the grocery store Ben became disoriented and lost. He drove for more than 2 hours and was a considerable distance from his neighborhood community when he failed to notice a traffic light and was involved in a motor-vehicle collision. The collision resulted in air-bag deployment and several minor injuries including a laceration to his forehead.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) arrived on the scene within minutes. After evaluating a seemingly disoriented Ben, who was without his phone or wallet, his vehicle was searched. His registration was located, which contained his address, indicating that he was not near his home. Due to Ben's presentation, the decision was made to transport him to the emergency department (ED) at the nearest hospital with a suspected closed head injury.

Upon arrival, he was unable to answer identifying questions or any questions about his health history. He became belligerent as different ED staff members repeatedly asked him the same questions. Further evaluation indicated that he did not have any life-threatening injuries, only some minor contusions. A CT scan of his head did not demonstrate any signs of head injury that would explain his erratic behavior.

Searching for clues related to his presentation and identity, nursing searched the pockets of his pants and jacket. No further identifying information or family contact information was found, however, a weekly pill organizer containing his medications including: lisinopril, hydrochlorothiazide atorvastatin, metoprolol, omeprazole and diazepam was found as well as a receipt from a gas station located 40 minutes east of the hospital near the address indicated on his vehicle registration.

Consider the factors identified in Part I...

Which healthcare professional(s) from your knowledge may be best suited to be involved in assessing or intervening with Ben based on these factors? (i.e., ID'd factor → Professional)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.