

## Thinking Processes Impaired by Dementia

1. **Judgment\***: problem solving, consideration of outcomes, consequences & risks.
2. **Attention\***: ability to stay on task, to concentrate.
3. **Perception\***: ability to interpret sensory information (sights, smell, touch, taste and sounds)
4. **Reasoning\***: cause and effect realization, ability to bargain and negotiate, perception or appreciation of levels of danger and risk
5. **Organization\***: planning, initiating, following through with an activity
6. **Memory\***: ability to store, retain and retrieve information (especially short term memory)
7. **Communication\***: giving and receiving verbal and non-verbal language
8. **Abstract Thinking\***: ability to perceive concepts, hold multiple thoughts simultaneously
9. **Orientation to Time and Place**: know current day, date, time, location, purpose
10. **Awareness of Socially Appropriate Norms**: impulse control, respecting others' space, values, etc.
11. **Ability to Filter Emotional Responses**: use 'common sense' or other information to gauge emotional reactions

An individual can be said to have a dementia when at least two of the functions with an '\*' next to them are impaired and declines are severe enough to interfere with social or occupational functionality. Importantly, the decline must represent a decline from a previously higher level of functioning.