

## Directions for Using the Family Visit Scale for Dementia (FAVS-D)

(FAVS-D page 1 of 2)

**Procedure:** This scale is designed to be administered to family members immediately after they have visited their relative with dementia in a long-term care setting. Instruct the family member to complete the scale by circling the number that corresponds to his or her agreement with each included statement. If the family member is unsure of how to answer a statement, refer him or her to the Item Definitions on page 2 of the scale. Completing the scale should not take more than 5 minutes.

**Scoring:** The researcher or individual administering the scale completes the item scoring. Add up all respondent scores to get the total score.

## Family Visit Scale for Dementia (FAVS-D)

Patient Identification Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Patient Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Respondent: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructions: Please circle the number that corresponds to your agreement with each statement below. If you are unsure of how to answer a statement, please refer to the Item Definitions on page 3.

Item	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Item score
The visit was successful because my loved one was content and at ease.	-2	-1	0	1	2	
The visit was successful because I saw that my loved one had good interactions with the staff.	-2	-1	0	1	2	
The visit was successful because my loved one was not upset when I was leaving.	-2	-1	0	1	2	
The visit was successful because I was greeted by staff when I came to the ward.	-2	-1	0	1	2	
The visit was successful because the staff assisted me in making my visit more pleasant.	-2	-1	0	1	2	
The visit was successful because I noticed that the staff paid attention to the residents' dignity and privacy.	-2	-1	0	1	2	
The visit was successful because the staff was available to respond to my medical or status questions.	-2	-1	0	1	2	
The visit was successful because I held hands with or provided a massage to my loved one.	-2	-1	0	1	2	
The visit was successful because I had a purpose for my visit, such as assisting my loved one at mealtime.	-2	-1	0	1	2	
The visit was successful because I had access to food or activity items.	-2	-1	0	1	2	
The visit was successful because of the support that I received from other visitors.	-2	-1	0	1	2	
The visit was not successful because the lack of cleanliness of my loved one interfered with the quality of the visit.	2	1	0	-1	-2	
The visit was not successful because the level of cleanliness of other residents interfered with my visit.	2	1	0	-1	-2	
The visit was successful because I was able to establish a connection with my loved one	-2	-1	0	1	2	
	Total score					

## Item Definitions:

*The visit was successful because my loved one was content and at ease:* The person with dementia was comfortable and did not have any behavioral symptoms of dementia.

*The visit was successful because I saw that my loved one had good interactions with the staff:* Visitor observed interaction between the person with dementia and a staff member indicating that the staff member knew the person with dementia and cared for him or her.

*The visit was successful because my loved one was not upset when I was leaving:* The visit ended smoothly without the resident becoming distressed (the end of a visit often requires help from staff to distract the person with dementia from not wanting to leave with the visitor).

*The visit was successful because I was greeted by staff when I came to the ward:* The visitor felt that the staff acknowledged his or her presence and appreciated that the family member was visiting.

*The visit was successful because the staff assisted me in making my visit more pleasant:* The assistance can take several forms (e.g., taking the visitor to the location of the person with dementia, introducing them if necessary, providing any care the person with dementia may need during the visit).

*The visit was successful because I noticed that the staff paid attention to the residents' dignity and privacy:* The visitor observed that the staff prevents or corrects undignified behavior (e.g., undressing) and provides private space for the visit.

*The visit was successful because the staff was available to respond to my medical or status questions:* The visitor was able to get information about the condition of his or her relative from a knowledgeable staff member.

*The visit was successful because I held hands with or provided a massage to my loved one:* The visitor was encouraged to touch the person with dementia and was provided cream or lotion for a hand massage.

*The visit was successful because I had a purpose for my visit, such as assisting my loved one at mealtime:* Staff encouraged the visitor to participate in meal activities; if the person with dementia had to be fed, the visitor was instructed about safe feeding strategies.

*The visit was successful because I had access to food or activity items:* The visitor was provided with some snack items if the visit occurred outside of mealtimes and with items that he or she could use during the visit with the relative (e.g., drawing supplies, cards, reminiscence items).

*The visit was successful because of the support that I received from other visitors:* Other visitors interacted with the person with dementia or provided advice on difficult issues (e.g., behavioral symptoms of dementia).

*The visit was not successful because the lack of cleanliness of my loved one interfered with the quality of the visit:* The person with dementia was unkempt, his or her clothes had food stains, or he or she was not toileted.

*The visit was not successful because the level of cleanliness of other residents interfered with my visit:* Other residents were unkempt with dirty clothes and were not toileted. There was a bad odor on the unit.

*The visit was successful because I was able to establish a connection with my loved one:* The relative acknowledged the visitor's presence and interacted with him or her.