

SIGNS OF A DETERIORATING PATIENT

You know your friend or family member best. A feeling that something is not right is often the first indication that a patient is going downhill. Here are some signs that it may be time to call for help.

Changes in breathing



- Noisy breathing or loud snoring
- Very fast or slow breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Strains to breathe
- Unable to talk in sentences



Changes in body temperature

- High fever
- Below normal temperature
- Shaking or chills



Changes in blood flow

- Extreme swelling of arms, legs or face
- Blotchy skin
- Sweating or clammy skin
- Cold hands and feet
- Very pale or dark skin color

Pain

- New or sudden pain
- Pain that gets worse
- Pain that doesn't go away
- Severe pain in the leg or belly



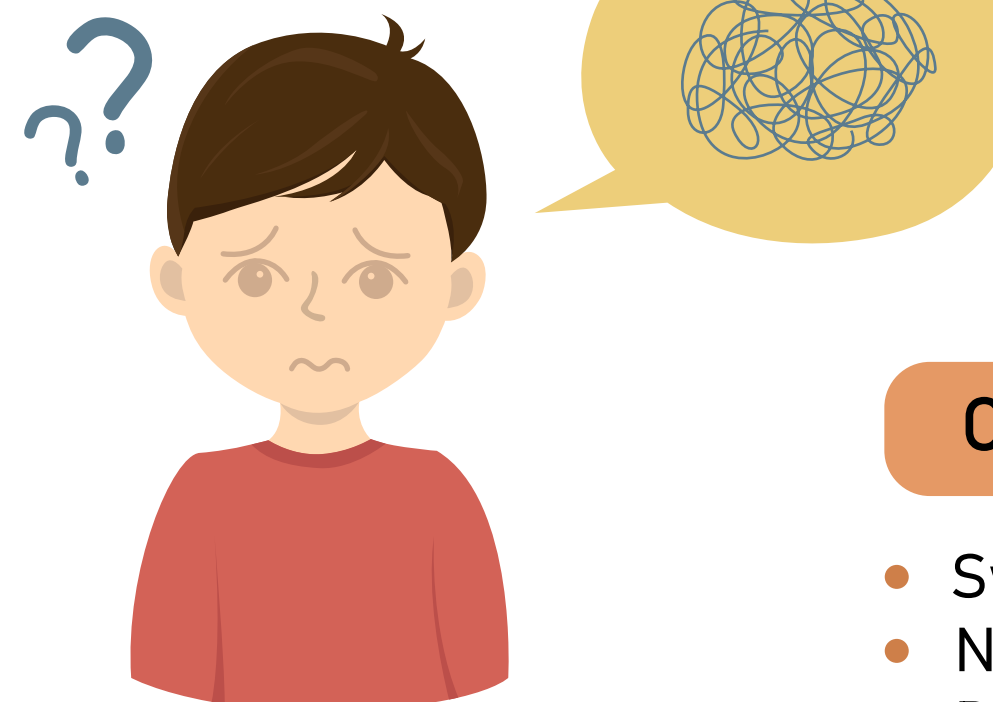
Changes in mental status

- Not thinking clearly
- Can't stay awake
- Loses consciousness



Changes in behavior

- Can't stay still
- Unnatural look in the eyes
- Very anxious or worried
- Feels they are dying



Other symptoms

- Swollen belly
- Nausea or vomiting that doesn't go away
- Dizziness that doesn't go away
- Low amount of urine or urinating very seldom