



Sensory Tool to  
Assess Responsiveness  
(STAR)

South Warwickshire  
NHS Foundation Trust



# Neuro-behavioural Assessment of Disorders of Consciousness

*HOW DO WE KEEP ASSESSMENT AND  
TREATMENT PERSONAL?*

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# Introduction:

## Context



## Aims;

To consider:

How you make assessment meaningful to:

- the patient
- the family
- the treating team



## How important is personalisation in the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of people in PDOC

*What makes each of us intimately human is that we carry a view of living life from the inside. To be human is to live in a personal world that carries a sense of how things are for the person.*

*This provides:*

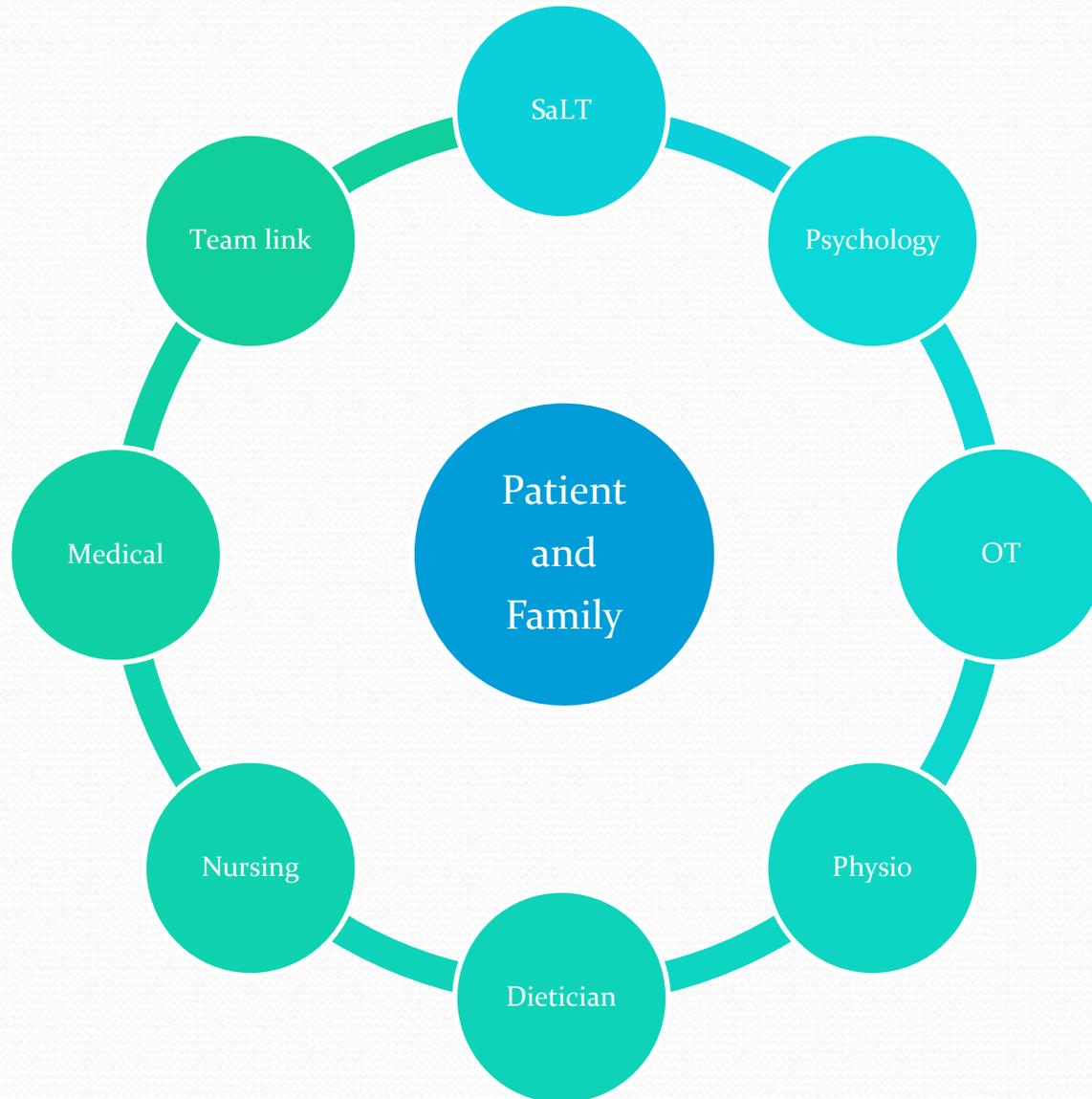
*important human textures for valuing the **qualities** of things. If such a dimension is neglected then something important is lost.'*

# STAR Tool:



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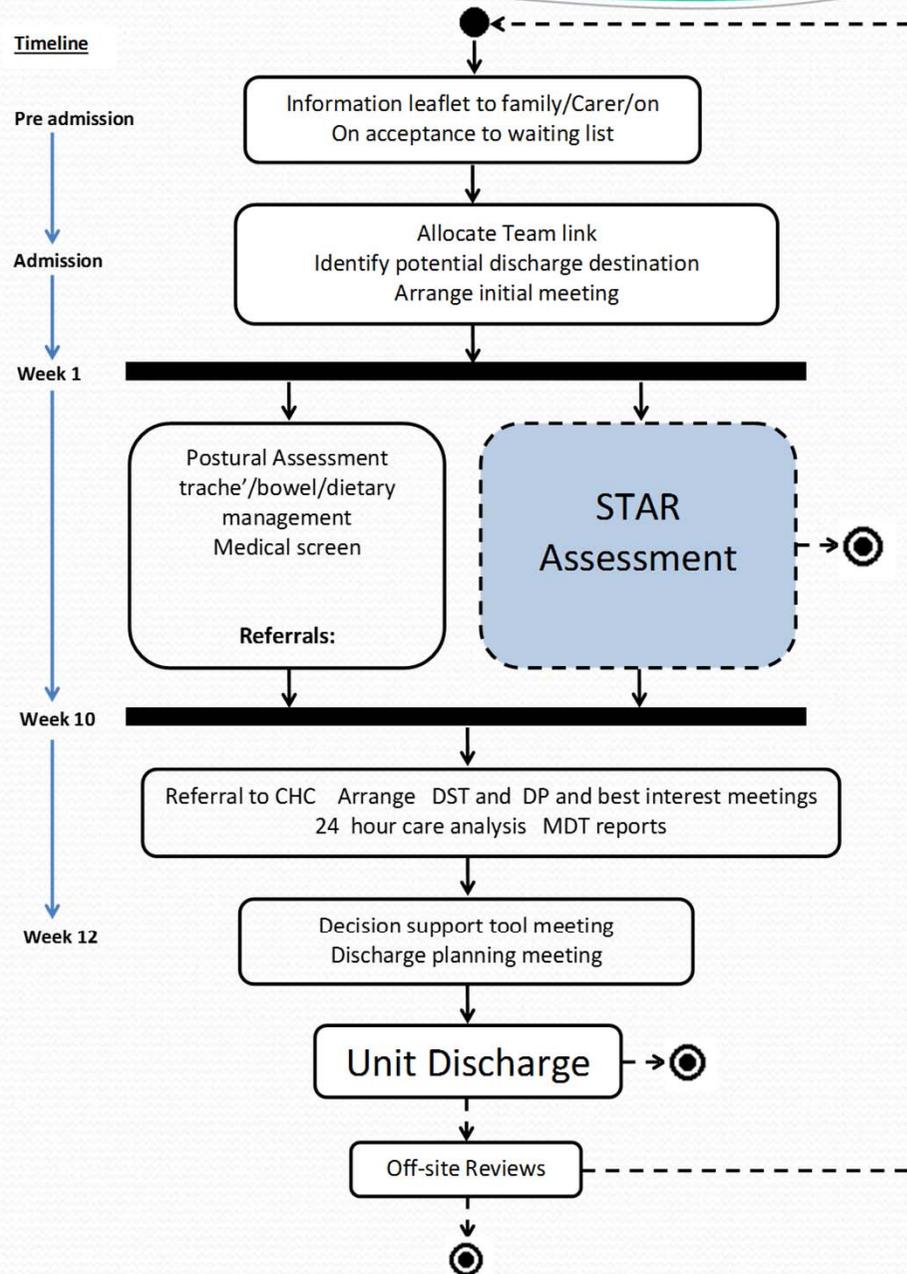
# The team

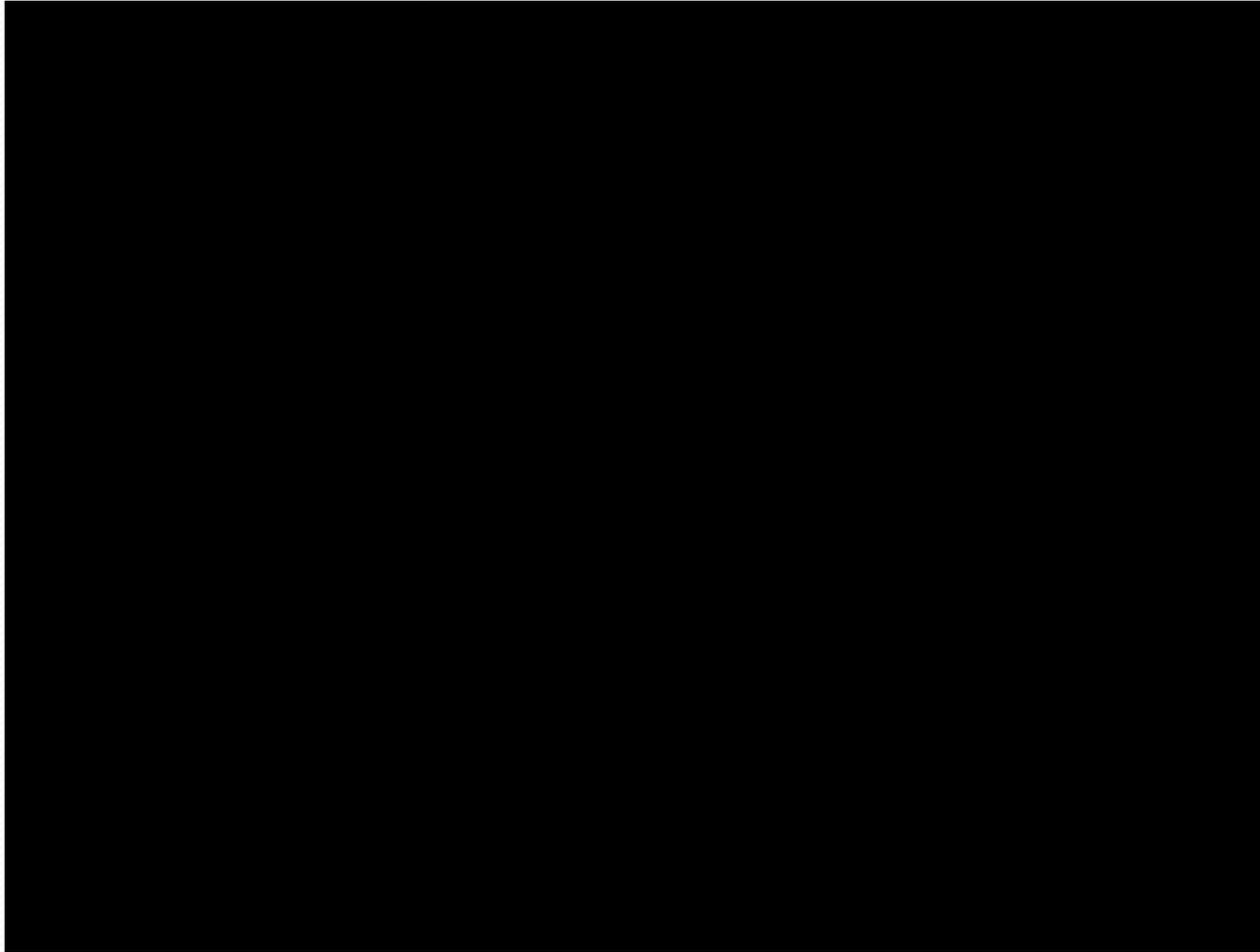




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## PDOC Care Pathway

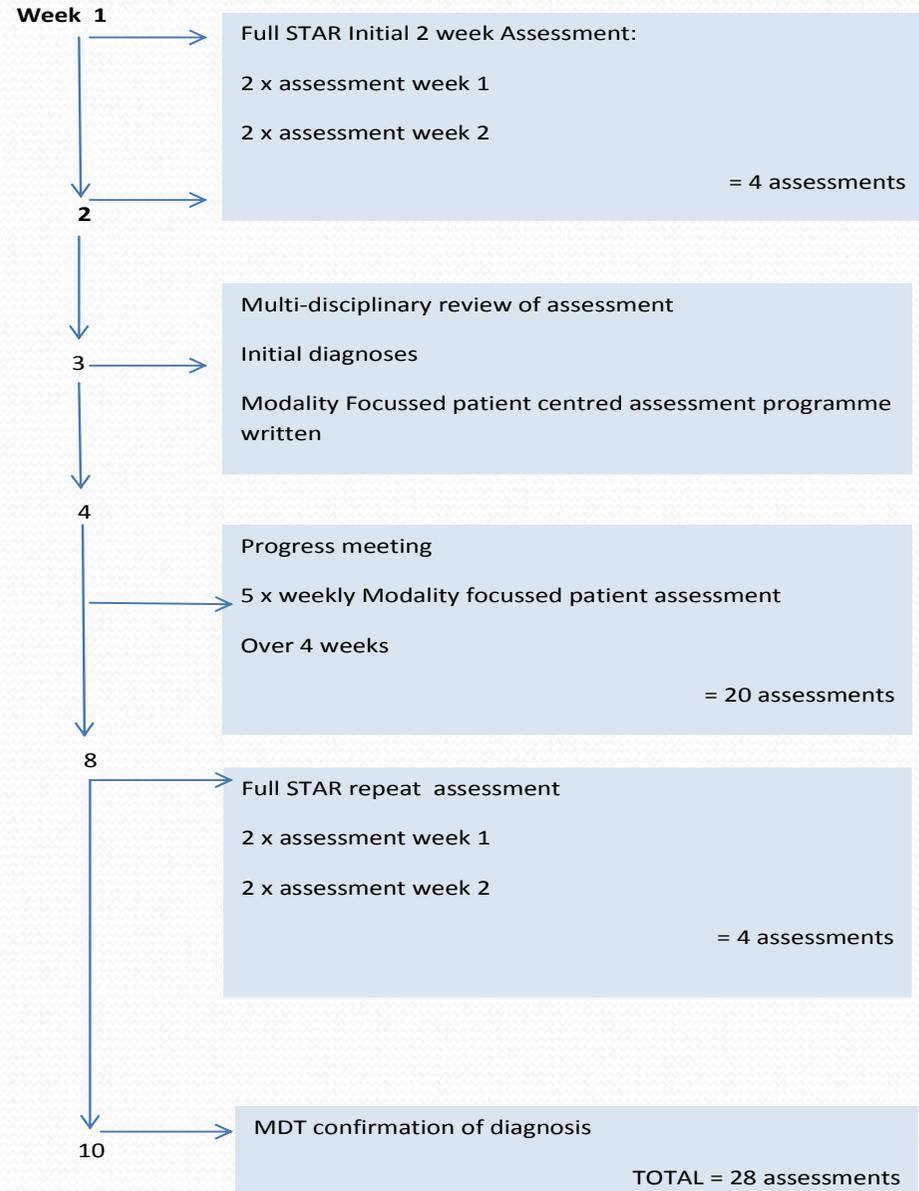




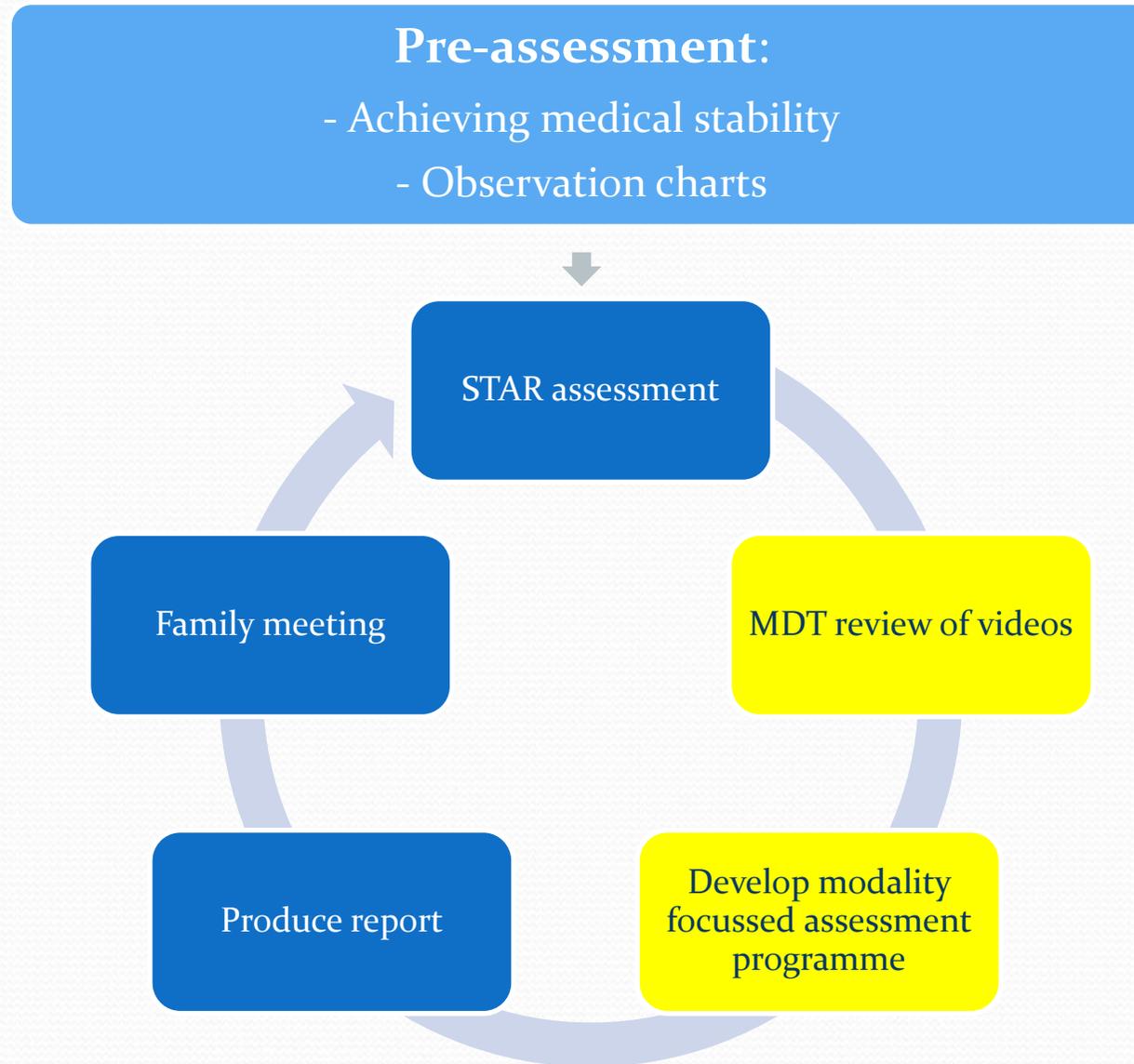
# STAR Assessment

PDOC; STAR Assessment:

## Timeline



# Flow chart of STAR process





# Patient Centred Modality focussed assessment programme



How you make  
assessment meaningful  
to the patient?



<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Aim</b>
<b>Mrs B Explores her environment, she consistently looks at people as they walk around the bedside. She has inconsistently followed written commands to discriminate between 2 pictures.</b>	<b>To explore the consistency of following a written request to discriminate between two colours, simple clear family photos and animals.</b>

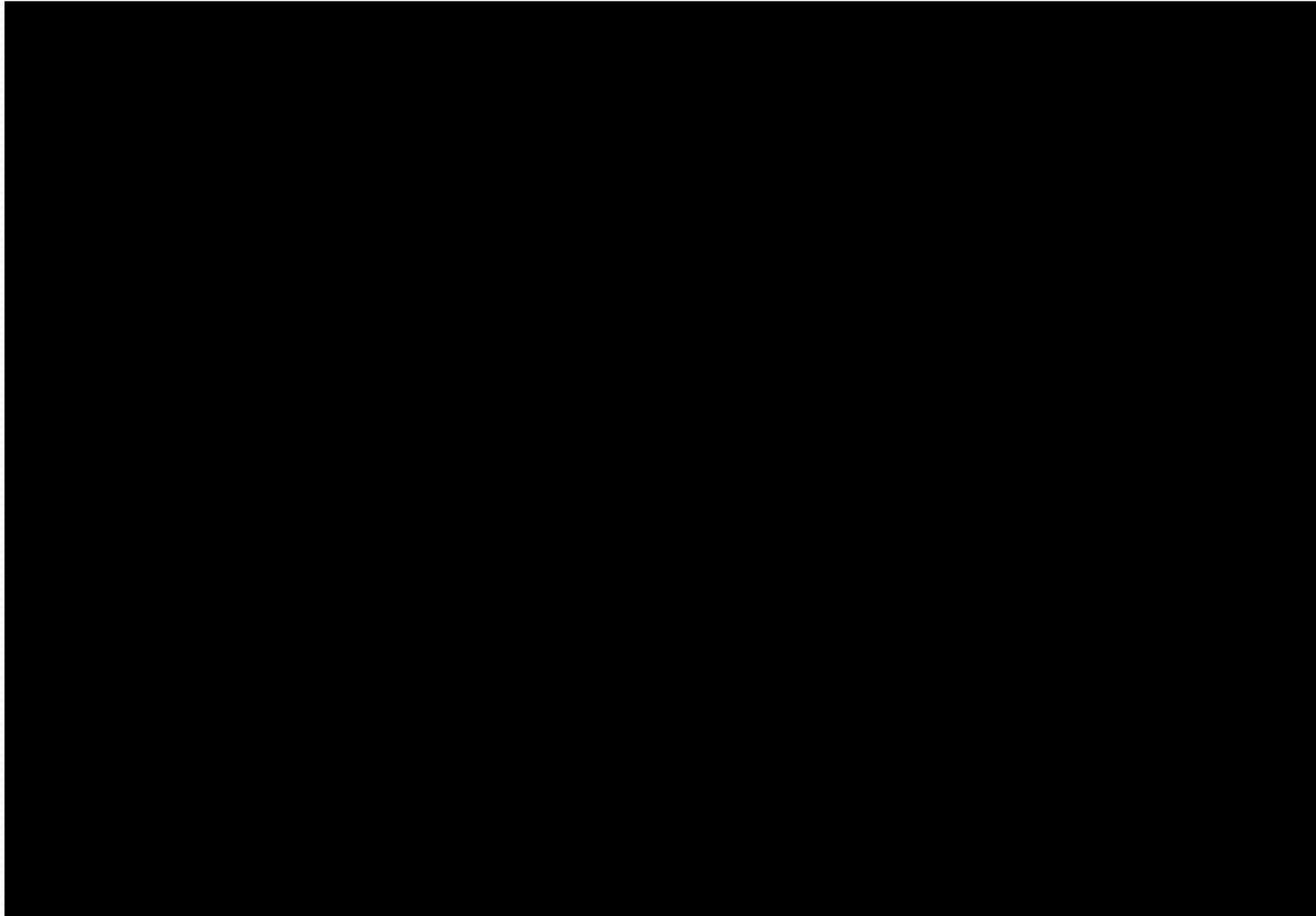
<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Aim</b>
<p data-bbox="436 571 1187 654"><b>Mrs B has nodded and shaken her head in response to a question</b></p> <ol data-bbox="571 798 1153 1292" style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 <i>Is your name X [correct name]?</i> of self.</li><li>2 <i>Is your name Y [incorrect name]?</i></li><li>3 <i>Are you a woman?</i></li><li>4 <i>Are you a man?</i></li><li>5 <i>Do you live in [London]?</i></li><li>6 <i>Are you married?</i></li><li>7 <i>Are you in bed?</i></li><li>8 <i>Are you in a chair?</i></li><li>9. <i>Are you wearing glasses?</i></li><li>10. <i>Are you standing up?</i></li></ol>	<p data-bbox="1220 571 1792 742"><b>To explore if Mrs B is able to consistently answer closed biographical and environmental questions</b></p>

# Programmes 1





# Programmes 2 - adapting





How you make  
assessment meaningful  
to the family?



# Goal Setting



## **Goals based around your relative could include:**

- Knowing what medications they are taking and why
- Knowing how to connect and programme the feeding pump
- Knowing how to switch off the sound of monitors
- Knowing how to suction a tracheostomy
- Knowing how to apply splints
- Feeling confident to take them outside
- Knowing how to clean their mouths



## **Goals around you might include:**

- **Knowing how to talk about what has happened to my relative with others**
- **Dealing with my grief and sense of loss**
- **Knowing how to get a good night sleep**
- **Maintaining links with friends who want to support me**
- **Dealing with all the phone calls and agreeing on how and when to communicate**
- **Delegate tasks to other family members**
- **Obtaining counselling support**
- **Taking time out to do the things I like to do, e.g., swimming, gardening**
- **Being able to care for myself**



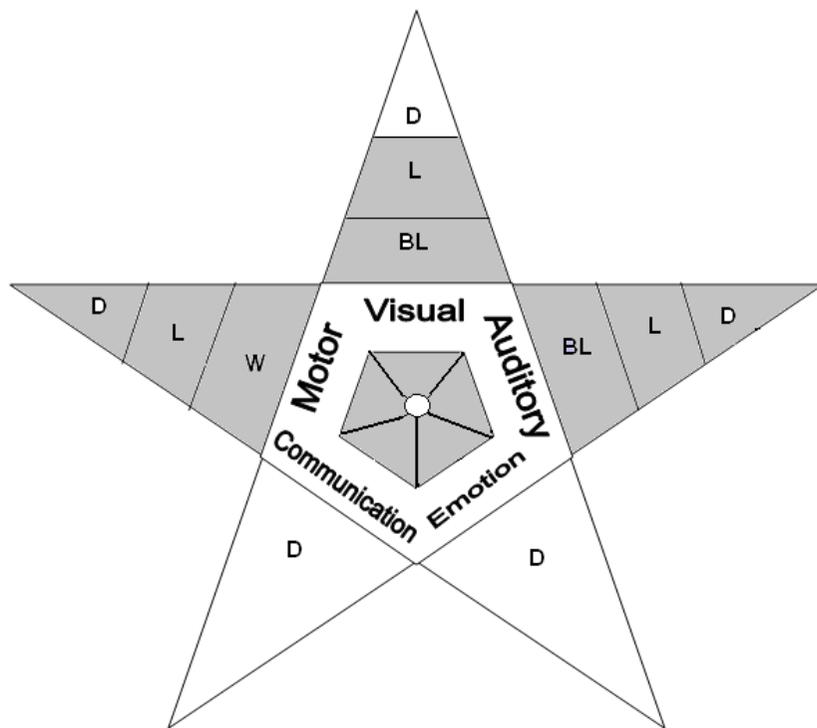
## **Goals for your family may include:**

- Preparing your children or other family members for visiting
- Co-ordinating visiting so that your relative is not over-tired
- Helping them understand how they can help you and your relative
- Talking to your children's school
- Ensuring you have family time



# Presenting reports and holding meetings

# Visual schematic of an initial STAR assessment outcome



## Key

**R = Reflexive**

**W = Withdrawal**

**BL = Brief localisation**

**L = Localisation**

**D = Discrimination**



How you make  
assessment meaningful  
to the treating team?



***Insiderness***

Takes account of your feelings, interested in your mood, how things are for you on the inside (eg feeling uncertain or scared)

***Uniqueness***

Treated as an individual, a person with your own particular likes, dislikes, fears and priorities.

***Togetherness***

Feeling connected to other people who share your experiences and interests; a sense of belonging, community and connection to others

