

Positive Risk Taking

The health service can at times be a risk adverse or paternalistic culture which attempts to remove all risk. Positive risk taking or risk enablement is based on the idea that measuring risk involves balancing the positive benefits against the negative effects.

Developing systems for managing risk allows the individual with dementia have control and independence over their own lives. It turns the focus to the strengths and abilities they possess rather than the deficits that may have developed.

As clinicians it is our role where possible to facilitate positive risk taking, offer the least restrictive practices as well as taking a tailored approach to risk enablement.

The goal is to manage the risk while promoting quality of life, independence and where possible prevent deterioration for as long as possible.

Benefits of positive risk taking.

- Boosts confidence
- Provides a sense of satisfaction and achievement
- Enables a level of independence to be maintained
- Promotes a person centered care approach

Reducing danger within risk enablement

- Identify possible hazards and dangers
- Complete a risk assessment. Judge the severity and likelihood of the risk occurring
- Weigh the risks against the positive benefits
- Make use of technology to maintain independence and decrease risk
- Practice ongoing risk assessment rather than a one off decision regarding the risk in question.
- Meaningful support – match needs with services
- Assess for aids and appliances which may promote independence and reduce risk.
- Respect – include the person with dementia and their voice.

Resources Positive Risk Taking

Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained – Risk Guidance for people with dementia.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/215960/dh_121493.pdf