



Mr. J. is a 95 year old man from Yonkers, NY. He was checked into the hospital in February 2018 after a fall at home, where he lived with his wife. Upon his discharge from the hospital, the family, including his wife, children, and grandchildren, met with the healthcare team there. The medical and social services staff suggested that Mr. J. be transferred to a nursing home, where he would be able to receive care and comfort in his last months. They also suggested that his family sign him up for a hospice program so that they and he would receive end-of-life services. The family agreed, and Mr. J. was transferred to Schervier Rehabilitation and Nursing Center.

When he arrived at Schervier, Mr. J's condition wasn't encouraging. He was confused and disoriented, which resulted in frequent falls. He was wheeled around by staff, and required the use of a mechanical lift in order to use the bathroom or to transfer in and out of bed. Due to Alzheimer's, his ability to swallow had deteriorated, and he had to be fed by the nurse's aides. His appetite had deteriorated as well, and he needed many dietary supplements in order to meet his nutritional needs. His appearance was disheveled, and he had multiple skin problems; redness and rashes, bruising from falls, and pressure ulcers from sitting and lying in poor position.

However, with Schervier's all-inclusive and holistic recovery program, things slowly began to change. Our expert nursing staff welcomed Mr. J. with open arms. He received 24/7 supportive, encouraging and therapeutic care from our specially trained nursing staff. They've all received specific education for working and communicating with patients with Alzheimer's, and their incredible work is testimony to their kindness, compassion, and expertise.

Mr. J. received physical therapy, which worked on his lower body strength. They started with exercise, and worked their way up to teaching him how to stand and transfer without needing a mechanical lift. He also received occupational therapy. The therapists worked on all his regular activities of daily living with him, including dressing, grooming, and feeding himself. Occupational therapy focuses on upper body activities, as well as fine motor skills for more precise tasks. Mr. J. received speech therapy as well. He and his therapist worked hard together to re-learn correct chew and swallow techniques for safe eating.

In addition to therapeutic services, Mr. J. received comprehensive medical services, all from the comfort of Schervier. The psychiatrist met with him regularly. With careful planning and medical supervision, Mr. J's mood went from constant disorientation, to alert and energized. Mr. J. was also seen weekly by the wound care doctor. His bruises and injuries were evaluated, and the doctor changed the treatment based on how he'd improved. The nurses changed his dressings each day, until one day, after many months, the doctor congratulated Mr. J, and told him that he no longer needed to see him! The dentist and podiatrist saw Mr. J. at regularly scheduled intervals too, for examination and treatment. The nutritionists, social workers, recreation team and even beauty salon worked closely with him as well, creating individualized plans of care to maximize his independence and activity level.

During his stay, Mr. J. was removed from hospice services, as it was no longer needed. Instead of resigning themselves to having Mr. J. live at Schervier permanently, his family began to make plans to take him home! Nearly 8 months after he arrived, Mr. J. was discharged from Schervier, a changed man. He was able to stand for transfers, wheel himself around, and feed himself safely. He no longer needed the nutritional supplements, as his appetite had improved enough to receive all his nutrients from regular meals. He no longer had falls, and his skin had completely healed. Due to his advanced age, he still required some assistance at home, and Schervier's social services team worked to have home healthcare assistance approved. His family marveled at the change in him, and was so grateful that their beloved husband and father had been given a new lease on life. It took a village, but with care, dedication, and compassion, our amazing team at Schervier accomplished and exceeded our goals.