

## Notice It First: Infection Warning Signs for Parkinson's Caregivers

**Printer-friendly version** (black text, low ink) · Life with Parkinson's

*Fridge checklist — Hayley and I wish we'd had this sooner.*

### Why this exists

In Parkinson's, infection often shows up in the **brain** first — sudden confusion — not always fever or pain. **Hayley saw it before I did.** If your person says “this isn't you,” treat it as a medical signal.

Full stories:

<https://lifewithparkinsons.ca/parkinsons-paronychia-infection-near-death/>

<https://lifewithparkinsons.ca/utis-and-parkinsons-hidden-dangers/>

### 12 signs (new or sudden vs baseline)

- ☐ Sudden confusion / “not themselves”
- ☐ Night delirium
- ☐ New or worse hallucinations
- ☐ Personality change / agitation
- ☐ Extreme fatigue ≠ normal OFF
- ☐ Sudden mobility crash / more falls
- ☐ Meds “stopped working” suddenly
- ☐ Dystonia or stiffness spike
- ☐ New incontinence / accidents
- ☐ Urinary changes (*may be absent*)
- ☐ Low or **no** fever (*not required*)
- ☐ Wound / swollen finger-toe **or** no obvious source

### Call now / same day

- Sudden confusion + decline → same-day care / ER per your plan
- Emergency (airway, unresponsive, can't get meds) → emergency services
- Possible UTI pattern → urinalysis **now**, even without classic burning

### Clinic script (fill in)

- “Parkinson's — sudden cognitive change, possible infection”
- Baseline: \_\_\_\_\_
- Today: \_\_\_\_\_
- Meds + last dose: \_\_\_\_\_
- Wound / urine / antibiotics: \_\_\_\_\_
- Your name + phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- Clinic / after-hours #: \_\_\_\_\_

### Household prep

- ☐ Phone in reach • clear path • voice call if needed
- ☐ Water, meds, rescue plan
- ☐ One other person knows the plan
- ☐ Lives alone — who else has this?: \_\_\_\_

**After infection:** recovery often **weeks, not days.**

<https://lifewithparkinsons.ca/parkinsons-paronychia-infection-near-death/>

**Person with PD:** listen when your caregiver says something's wrong.

### More help

- <https://lifewithparkinsons.ca/caregiving/>
- <https://lifewithparkinsons.ca/>

*Education only — not medical advice.*

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