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## ***Delirium Pathway & Supporting Documents***



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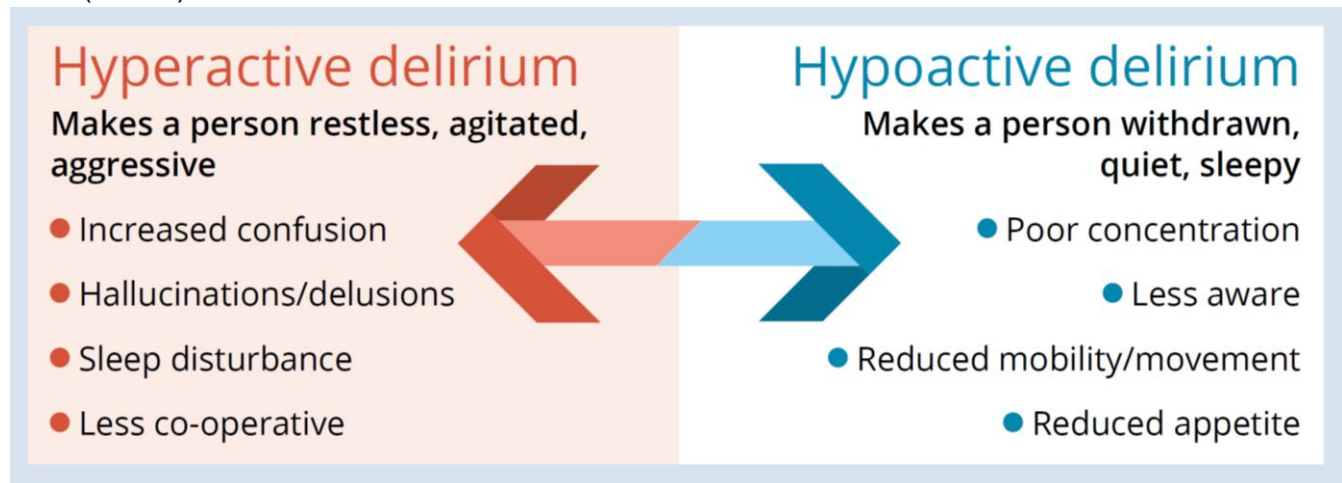
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# Introduction

Delirium is an acute deterioration in mental functioning arising over hours or days that is triggered mainly by acute medical illness, surgery, trauma, or medication. Delirium is independently linked with poor outcomes including medical complications, falls, increased length of hospital stay, discharge to care home rather than previous home address, likelihood of developing dementia and also increased risk of death.

Delirium is a common clinical syndrome characterised by disturbed consciousness, cognitive function or perception, which has an acute onset and fluctuating course. It usually develops over 1–2 days. However, it can be prevented and treated if dealt with urgently. Approximately 30% of cases are likely to be preventable. The hospital environment often precipitates or exacerbates episodes of delirium. Recent evidence, demonstrates that improved understanding of delirium among health professionals and improved attention to the environment surrounding at-risk patients can both prevent the onset of delirium and curtail episodes that do arise.

A person may already have delirium when they present to hospital or it may develop during a hospital admission. Delirium can be hypoactive or hyperactive but some people show signs of both (mixed).



Hypoactive and mixed delirium can be more difficult to recognise.

It can be difficult to distinguish between delirium and dementia because symptoms overlap, and some people may have both conditions. Dementia tends to develop slowly, whereas delirium is characterised by sudden changes. Dementia is generally a chronic, progressive disease for which there is no cure. Delirium is a potentially reversible condition if the causes are identified and they are treatable. If clinical uncertainty exists over the diagnosis, initial management should be for delirium.

Delirium is among the most common of medical emergencies. The prevalence of delirium in people on medical wards in hospital is up to 30%, and up to 50% of people having surgery develop delirium with considerable variation across different types of surgery and settings. The prevalence is higher in particular clinical groups. It affects up to 50% who have hip fracture and up to 75% in intensive care. Several predisposing factors increase the risk of delirium, these include older age, dementia, frailty, the presence of multiple comorbidities, male sex, sensory impairments, a history of depression, a history of delirium, and alcohol misuse.

Delirium varies in duration, mostly resolving within days, but in some people it can last weeks or months.

Despite its importance, reporting of delirium is poor in the UK and performance reported in national audit relating to delirium indicates that Hywel Dda University Health Board's reporting procedures need to be improved. It is underdiagnosed, and the treatment of patients with established delirium is variable. Preventative measures can reduce the incidence of delirium, yet few clinical units have formal delirium risk reduction programmes.

**Illness, surgery and medications can all cause delirium. It often starts suddenly, but usually lifts when the condition causing it gets better. It can be frightening – not only for the person who is unwell – but also for those around him or her.**

## **Who is at risk of delirium?**

Any patient can develop delirium, but certain factors can increase the risk. These include:

- Older people- the risk increases with age
- Older people taking multiple medicines
- People with dementia
- People who are dehydrated
- People with an infection
- Severely ill people or people who are in critical care
- People who have had surgery, especially hip surgery
- People who are nearing the end of their life
- People with sight or hearing difficulties

- People who have a temperature
- Older people with constipation or urinary retention
- People who are in pain

## **How do I support someone with delirium?**

You can help someone with delirium feel calmer and more in control if you:

- Stay calm
- Talk to them in short, simple sentences
- Check if they have understood you. Repeat things if necessary
- Try not to agree with any unusual or incorrect ideas, tactfully disagree or change the subject
- Reassure them - remind them of what is happening and how they are doing
- Remind them of the time and date - make sure they can see a clock and/or a calendar
- Try to make sure that someone they know well is with them. This is often most important during the evening when delirium often gets worse
- If they in hospital, bring in some familiar objects from home
- Make sure they have their glasses and hearing aid correctly in place
- Help them to eat and drink
- Have a light on at night so that they can see where they are if they wake up

This pathway does not cover children and young people (younger than 18 years), people receiving end-of-life care, or people with intoxication and/or withdrawing from drugs or alcohol, and people with delirium associated with these states.

# How can I help to prevent delirium?

A range of strategies may help prevent delirium in an older person. NICE <sup>1,2</sup> has outlined the following preventative interventions that may help you to reduce the risk of delirium for the people in your care.

## **Cognitive impairment or disorientation**

- Provide appropriate lighting and clear signage. A clock (consider providing a 24-hour clock in critical care) and a calendar should also be easily visible to the person at risk.
- Re-orientate the person by explaining where they are, who they are, and what your role is.
- Introduce cognitively stimulating activities (example reminiscence)
- Facilitate regular visits from family and friends.

## **Dehydration or constipation**

- Encourage the person to drink. Consider offering subcutaneous or intravenous fluids if necessary.
- Seek advice if necessary when managing fluid balance in people with comorbidities (example: heart failure, chronic kidney disease).

## **Hypoxia**

- Assess hypoxia and optimise oxygen saturation if necessary.

## **Immobility or limited mobility**

- Encourage the person to:
  - Mobilise soon after surgery
  - Walk (provide walking aids if needed and ensure these are accessible at all times)
- Encourage all people, including those unable to walk, to carry out active range of motion exercises

## **Infection**

- Look for and treat infection.
- Avoid unnecessary catheterisation.
- Implement infection control procedures in line with “Infection Control” (NICE CG2).

**Multiple medications**

- Carry out a medication review for people taking multiple drugs, taking into account both the type and number of medications.

**Pain**

- Assess for pain. Look for non-verbal signs of pain, particularly in people with communication difficulties.
- Start and review appropriate pain management in any person in whom pain is identified or suspected.

**Poor nutrition**

- Follow the advice given on nutrition in “Nutrition support in adults” (NICE CG 32).
- If the person has dentures, ensure they fit properly.

**Sensory impairment**

- Resolve any reversible cause of the impairment (such as impacted ear wax).
- Ensure working hearing and visual aids are available and used by people who need them.

**Sleep disturbances**

- Avoid nursing or medical procedures during sleeping hours, if possible.
- Schedule medication rounds to avoid disturbing sleep.
- Reduce noise to a minimum during sleep periods (see NICE CG35)



# Delirium Risk Reduction

1 in 5 people in acute hospitals can have delirium



Prolonged hospital stay.  
Work together to plan for discharge and avoid lengthy hospital stay



## Sleep in hospital

Promote healthy environment for good sleep



## Screen for delirium

Good history from carer / family and screening tools can identify problems early on



## Sight and hearing

Helping people with sensory impairment appropriately



## Constipation

Promote good bowel function



## Hydration

Ensure people have adequate hydration in hospital



## Medication

Avoid polypharmacy.  
Early medication reviews can be very useful



Promoting mobility and function in hospital





# Identifying and managing delirium

It is important to involve families and/or carers in identifying delirium. On admission, simply asking relatives or carers:

**“Do you think (name of person) has been more confused lately?”**

can help identify change and help keep families and carers involved.

On a busy acute ward delirium may not be spotted. Recognizing acute delirium as part of your routine [RADAR], has proven to be efficient, reliable, sensitive and very well accepted tool for screening for delirium through the day. Completion takes approximately 7 seconds and is undertaken 3 times a day (potentially as part of intentional rounding).

The 4 “A” Test or **4AT** ([www.the4at.com](http://www.the4at.com)) is a rapid clinical assessment tool for delirium detection and is among the most widely-used clinical tests for delirium internationally. It is a short practical tool designed to be used by any health care professional in busy areas where assessment for delirium is needed, either on first contact with the patient or subsequently when delirium is suspected (potentially triggered by change highlighted by RADAR). The tool incorporates the Months Backwards test and the Abbreviated Mental Test-4 (AMT4) which are short tests for cognitive impairment. As an assessment tool the 4AT does not provide a formal diagnosis but a positive score should trigger a more formal assessment.

Through testing of detection methods and the initiation of the **TIME bundle** a combined tool to detect, manage, and review delirium through repeated assessment has been created.

These tools are the start of a process to manage the medical emergency delirium. They aim to help clinicians to follow appropriate care pathways and help plan ongoing care and assessment to ensure safe, effective, person-centred delivery of care every time.

# DELIRIUM MANAGEMENT COMPREHENSIVE PATHWAY - ACUTE HOSPITAL

## TIME BUNDLE

There's no **TIME** like the present.

For patients aged 75 and over when clinical history suggests delirium or assessment tool 4AT positive:

Initiate all elements of this CARE BUNDLE within 2 hours

**T THINK** about possible triggers acute illness, pain, trauma

## I INVESTIGATE

Carry out early warning score  
Start fluid balance chart  
Send routine bloods & appropriate cultures, imaging  
Consider drug withdrawal / intoxication, alcohol

## M MANAGEMENT

Medication review, infection, hypoxia, hypoglycaemia.

## E ENGAGE

## Triggers referral to Liaison Psychiatry

- Severe agitation or distress not responding to standard measures above
- Doubt about diagnosis
- If formal assessment under **Mental Health Act** is being considered

Psychiatric services may also hold useful information on background cognition and mental health.

## Adult presents

If positive for **RADAR**, clinical suspicion of delirium, perform **4AT delirium screen** as part of clerking documentation

## Possible delirium is a Medical Emergency

TIME bundle initiate all elements within 2 hours

## Act on acute, severe causes & stabilise patient

e.g. infection / medication toxicity / hypoxia / hypoglycaemia / dehydration / retention / constipation

## MANAGEMENT

Treat underlying causes (in up to 30% cases no cause is found)

Investigation

Medication review

Optimise clinical

## General Management

- Document diagnosis of delirium in notes
- Explain to patient & carer
- Use 'This is Me' & 'Butterfly Scheme'
- Assess & monitor pain
- Encourage oral hydration & nutrition wherever possible & document daily intake
- Good pressure area care
- Avoid catheterisation unless absolutely necessary
- Treat constipation
- Consider if swallow safe
- Avoid unnecessary interventions

## Environmental Measures

- Ensure glasses are clean & worn
- Ensure hearing aid is working and treat ear wax
- Nurse in calm, quiet, well lit area, ensure buzzer is close to patient and respond promptly
- Give regular gentle reassurance & orientation prompts (use clocks & calendars)
- Promote mobility and meaningful activity as much as possible
- Consider an interpreter for preferred / 1<sup>st</sup> language choice of patient
- Ensure adequate uninterrupted sleep
- Avoid ward moves unless in the clinical interest of the patient

## Treat Delirium Symptoms

- Encourage family visits, relax visiting times, involve relatives in care
- Consider additional staff if challenging behaviour or wandering
- If symptoms or behaviour threaten the patient or others, use the lowest possible doses of medication, 'start low, go slow' and review every 24h
- Seek senior advice
- Assess mental capacity and need for deprivation of liberty safeguarding DOLS
- Inform next of kin if medication changes

## Patient NOT Improving

If no improvement after 5 to 7 days or if cause of delirium not clear, refer to Geriatric services

**Delirium diagnosis must be included in ALL discharge documentation**

## Patient Improving

- Repeat AMT10 cognitive assessment
- Consider post-delirium distress
- Encourage patient to share their experience with healthcare staff
- Reduce & discontinue antipsychotic treatment

## RADAR

- Is the person more sleepy than usual?
- Did they have trouble following my instructions?
- Have their movements slowed down?

## 4AT

### 1. Alertness

Normal (fully alert, not agitated throughout assessment) 0  
Mild sleepiness for < 10 seconds after waking, then normal 0  
Clearly abnormal 4

### 2. AMT4 (4 item Abbreviated Mental test)

Age, Date of Birth, Place, Year  
No mistakes 0  
1 mistake 1  
≥ 2 mistakes / untestable 2

### 3. Attention

Months of the year backwards  
Achieves 7 months or more correctly 0  
Starts but scores <7 months or refuses to start 1  
Untestable (cannot start because unwell, drowsy, inattentive) 2

### 4. Acute Change or fluctuating symptoms?

No 0  
Yes 4

**TOTAL;** \_\_\_\_\_

≥ 4; possible delirium +/- cognitive impair  
1-3: possible cognitive impairment  
0: delirium or cognitive impairment unlikely (but delirium still possible if info incomplete)

**Delirium can persist for weeks or months after the cause is treated**

## PHARMACOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT OF DELIRIUM

### Start with:

Behavioural approaches. Consider & treat all possible underlying causes.

### Consider stopping drugs that may be associated with delirium especially those with anticholinergic activity.

High risk drugs include tricyclic antidepressants, phenothiazines and anticholinergics.

Medium risk drugs include benzodiazepines, sedatives, dopamine-activating drugs, anticonvulsants, histamine H2 receptors blockers, dioxin, beta-blockers and analgesics.

Try the lowest clinically effective dose via the **Oral Route** initially if possible<sup>1</sup> - seek senior advice

Use one drug at the time, use small doses, repeat if necessary and review every 24hrs.

Tailor doses to age, body size and level of agitation.

Indications for sedation: carry out essential investigation or treatments, prevent danger to self or others, relieve patient distress

**If any of the following concomitant conditions present:** Parkinson's disease, Lewy body dementia, seizures, elongated QTc (>470ms), alcohol or illicit drug intoxication, use Lorazepam first line (otherwise avoid in delirium)

#### • Haloperidol 0.5 – 1mg Hourly

(Max 5mg in 24hrs)

OR

#### • Olanzapine 2.5mg – 5mg 2 hourly

(Max 10mg in 24hrs)

#### • Lorazepam 0.5 – 1mg 1-2 hourly

(Max 4mg in 24hrs)

High incidence of acute dystonia; ensure PO/IM Procyclidine is available – pre-treatment ECG required.

**Caution** with antipsychotic naive patients and in those whose sub-type of dementia is unknown.

Can be used in patients with a history of dystonia.

Olanzapine may be better tolerated if antipsychotics are needed for longer time periods.

**Avoid unless** patient has Parkinson's disease, Lewy body dementia, seizures, elongated QTc (>470ms), alcohol or illicit drug intoxication, or an ECG is not practical.  
Have Flumazenil to hand in case of benzodiazepine induced respiratory depression.

Consider **IM treatment** if two oral doses fail or sooner if the patient is placing themselves or others at significant risk.

#### • Haloperidol 0.5 – 1mg 2 Hourly (Max 5mg in 24hrs)

OR

#### • Lorazepam 0.5mg – 1mg 1-2 hourly (Max 4mg in 24hrs)

High incidence of acute dystonia; ensure PO/IM Procyclidine is available – pre-treatment ECG required.

Use first line in conditions above (avoid otherwise)  
Have Flumazenil to hand in case of benzodiazepine induced respiratory depression.

**Monitor** sedated patients with respiratory rate, pulse oximetry, BP, pulse and temperature.  
**Beware** of respiratory depression and risk of developing NMS with antipsychotics

### If that doesn't work after 30-60 minutes

Consider psychiatric review if frequent doses/daily max doses are reached

# **Delirium**

## **Supporting Documents**



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Patient name:

Date of birth:

Patient number:

(label)

**Assessment test for delirium &  
cognitive impairment**

Date:

Time:

Tester

CIRCLE

**[1] ALERTNESS**

*This includes patients who may be markedly drowsy (eg. difficult to rouse and/or obviously sleepy during assessment) or agitated/hyperactive. Observe the patient. If asleep, attempt to wake with speech or gentle touch on shoulder. Ask the patient to state their name and address to assist rating.*

Normal (fully alert, but not agitated, throughout assessment)	0
Mild sleepiness for <10 seconds after waking, then normal	0
Clearly abnormal	4

**[2] AMT4**

*Age, date of birth, place (name of the hospital or building), current year.*

No mistakes	0
1 mistake	1
2 or more mistakes/untestable	2

**[3] ATTENTION**

*Ask the patient: "Please tell me the months of the year in backwards order, starting at December."  
To assist initial understanding one prompt of "what is the month before December?" is permitted.*

Months of the year backwards- achieves 7 months or more correctly	0
Starts but scores <7 months / refuses to start	1
Untestable (cannot start because unwell, drowsy, inattentive)	2

**[4] ACUTE CHANGE OR FLUCTUATING COURSE**

*Evidence of significant change or fluctuation in: alertness, cognition, other mental function  
(eg. paranoia, hallucinations) arising over the last 2 weeks and still evident in last 24hrs*

No	0
Yes	4

**4 or above:** possible delirium +/- cognitive impairment

**1-3:** possible cognitive impairment

**0:** delirium or severe cognitive impairment unlikely (but delirium still possible if [4] information incomplete)

**4AT SCORE**

**GUIDANCE NOTES**

Version 1.2. Information and download: [www.the4AT.com](http://www.the4AT.com)

The 4AT is a screening instrument designed for rapid initial assessment of delirium and cognitive impairment. A score of 4 or more *suggests* delirium but is not diagnostic: more detailed assessment of mental status may be required to reach a diagnosis. A score of 1-3 suggests cognitive impairment and more detailed cognitive testing and informant history-taking are required. A score of 0 does not definitively exclude delirium or cognitive impairment: more detailed testing may be required depending on the clinical context. Items 1-3 are rated *solely on observation of the patient at the time of assessment*. Item 4 requires information from one or more source(s), eg. your own knowledge of the patient, other staff who know the patient (eg. ward nurses), GP letter, case notes, carers. The tester should take account of communication difficulties (hearing impairment, dysphasia, lack of common language) when carrying out the test and interpreting the score.

**Alertness:** Altered level of alertness is very likely to be delirium in general hospital settings. If the patient shows significant altered alertness during the bedside assessment, score 4 for this item. **AMT4 (Abbreviated Mental Test - 4):** This score can be extracted from items in the AMT10 if the latter is done immediately before. **Acute Change or Fluctuating Course:** Fluctuation can occur without delirium in some cases of dementia, but marked fluctuation usually indicates delirium. To help elicit any hallucinations and/or paranoid thoughts ask the patient questions such as, "Are you concerned about anything going on here?"; "Do you feel frightened by anything or anyone?"; "Have you been seeing or hearing anything unusual?"

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Patient name:

Date of birth:

Patient number:

(label)

## 4AT Repeat Assessment Tool

Tester:				
Date:				
Time				

Circle

### [1] ALERTNESS

*This includes patients who may be markedly drowsy (eg. difficult to rouse and/or obviously sleepy during assessment) or agitated/hyperactive. Observe the patient. If asleep, attempt to wake with speech or gentle touch on shoulder. Ask the patient to state their name and address to assist rating.*

Normal (fully alert, but not agitated, throughout assessment)	0	0	0	0
Mild sleepiness for <10 seconds after waking, then normal	0	0	0	0
Clearly abnormal	4	4	4	4

### [2] AMT4

*Age, date of birth, place (name of the hospital or building), current year.*

No mistakes	0	0	0	0
1 mistake	1	1	1	1
2 or more mistakes/untestable	2	2	2	2

### [3] ATTENTION

*Ask the patient: "Please tell me the months of the year in backwards order, starting at December."  
To assist initial understanding one prompt of "what is the month before December?" is permitted.*

Months of the year backwards - achieves 7 months or more correctly	0	0	0	0
Starts but scores <7 months / refuses to start	1	1	1	1
Untestable (cannot start because unwell, drowsy, inattentive)	2	2	2	2

### [4] ACUTE CHANGE OR FLUCTUATING COURSE

*Evidence of significant change or fluctuation in: alertness, cognition, other mental function (eg. paranoia, hallucinations) arising over the last 2 weeks and still evident in last 24hrs*

No	0	0	0	0
Yes	4	4	4	4

#### 4AT score

4 or above: possible delirium +/- cognitive impairment

1-3: possible cognitive impairment

0: delirium or severe cognitive impairment unlikely (but delirium still possible if [4] information incomplete)

Total			





## TIME bundle

Name:  
Date of birth:  
Patient number:

Date:  
Time:

Practitioner name:

Practitioner signature:

Designation:

Initiate TIME within 2 hours (initial and write time of completion)		Assessed/ sent	Results seen	Abnormality found
T	<b>Think, exclude and treat possible triggers</b>			
	NEWS (think sepsis 6)			
	Blood glucose			
	Medication history (identify new medications/ change of dose/ medication recently stopped)			
	Pain review (Abbey Pain Scale)			
	Assess for urinary retention			
	Assess for constipation			
I	<b>Investigate and intervene to correct underlying causes</b>			
	Assess hydration and start fluid balance chart			
	Bloods (FBC, U&E, Ca, LFT's, CRP, Mg, Glucose)			
	Look for symptoms/ signs of infection (skin, chest, urine, CNS) and perform appropriate cultures/ imaging depending on clinical assessment (see sepsis 6)			
	ECG (ACS)			
M	<b>Management Plan</b>			<b>Completed</b>
	Initiate treatment of ALL underlying causes found above			
E	<b>Engage and Explore-</b> complete within 2 hours or if family/carer not present within 24 hours			
	Engage with patient/ family/ carer- explore if this is usual behaviour. Ask: How would you like to be involved?			
	Explain diagnosis of delirium to patient and family/carers (use delirium leaflet)			
	Document diagnosis of delirium			

## TIME bundle guidance

First 2 hours			Within 2 hours or if family/ carers not present within 24 hours
<u>Triggers</u>	<u>Investigate</u>	<u>Manage</u>	<u>Engage</u>
Severe illness	FBC, U&E's, CRP, LFT's, Glucose, Mg, Ca, PO	First and foremost treat underlying causes	Family and carers can give you a history of change. Always speak to them to obtain history and baseline function.
Trauma/surgery			
Pain	Urinalysis	Manage sepsis	Family and friends can help re- orientate.
Infection/sepsis	Consider ABG	Refer to delirium management pathway	
Dehydration	Culture, urine, sputum, wounds.	DO NOT USE RESTRAINT	Always document delirium diagnosis.
Hypoxia	Consider blood culture (Sepsis 6), CXR		
Hypoglycaemia	Always carry out routine observations (NEWS) including AVPU and Think Glucose	AVOID ANTIPSYCHOTIC MEDICATIONS- these may worsen delirium or contribute to the risk of falls and immobility (refer to Pharmacological Management of Delirium flowchart)	Reassure families and carers.
Medications			
Alcohol and drug withdrawal	Start fluid balance		
Urinary retention/ constipation			
	Think about hydrations status		



## 4AT Combined Assessment Tool

Name:

Date of birth:

Patient number:

Date:

Time:

Practitioner name:

Practitioner signature:

Designation:

### [1] ALERTNESS

*This includes patients who may be markedly drowsy (eg. difficult to rouse and/or obviously sleepy during assessment) or agitated/hyperactive. Observe the patient. If asleep, attempt to wake with speech or gentle touch on shoulder. Ask the patient to state their name and address to assist rating.*

Normal (fully alert, but not agitated, throughout assessment)	<b>0</b>
Mild sleepiness for <10 seconds after waking, then normal	<b>0</b>
Clearly abnormal	<b>4</b>

### [2] AMT4

*Age, date of birth, place (name of the hospital or building), current year.*

No mistakes	<b>0</b>
1 mistake	<b>1</b>
2 or more mistakes/untestable	<b>2</b>

### [3] ATTENTION

*Ask the patient: "Please tell me the months of the year in backwards order, starting at December."  
To assist initial understanding one prompt of "what is the month before December?" is permitted.*

Months of the year backwards- achieves 7 months or more correctly	<b>0</b>
Starts but scores <7 months / refuses to start	<b>1</b>
Untestable (cannot start because unwell, drowsy, inattentive)	<b>2</b>

### [4] ACUTE CHANGE OR FLUCTUATING COURSE

*Evidence of significant change or fluctuation in: alertness, cognition, other mental function (eg. paranoia, hallucinations) arising over the last 2 weeks and still evident in last 24hrs*

No	<b>0</b>
Yes	<b>4</b>
<b>Total</b>	

If score 4 or more this is possible delirium +/- cognitive impairment

If score 1-3 possible cognitive impairment. More detailed cognitive assessment and informant history taking are required

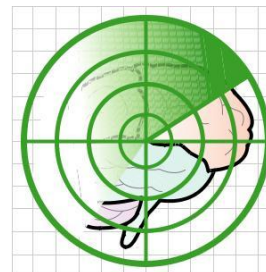
If score 0 delirium or severe cognitive impairment unlikely (but delirium still possible if [4] information incomplete)

Initiate TIME within 2 hours (initial and write time of completion)		Assessed/ sent	Results seen	Abnormality found
<b>T</b>	<b>Think, exclude and treat possible triggers</b>			
	NEWS (think sepsis 6)			
	Blood glucose			
	Medication history (identify new medications/ change of dose/ medication recently stopped)			
	Pain review (Abbey Pain Scale)			
	Assess for urinary retention			
<b>I</b>	<b>Investigate and intervene to correct underlying causes</b>			
	Assess hydration and start fluid balance chart			
	Bloods (FBC, U&E, Ca, LFT's, CRP, Mg, Glucose)			
	Look for symptoms/ signs of infection (skin, chest, urine, CNS) and perform appropriate cultures/ imaging depending on clinical assessment (see sepsis 6)			
	ECG (ACS)			
<b>M</b>	<b>Management Plan</b>			<b>Completed</b>
<b>E</b>	Initiate treatment of ALL underlying causes found above			
	<b>Engage and Explore-</b> complete within 2 hours or if family/carer not present within 24 hours			
	Engage with patient/ family/ carer- explore if this is usual behaviour.			
	Ask: How would you like to be involved?			
	Explain diagnosis of delirium to patient and family/carers (use delirium leaflet)			
	Document diagnosis of delirium			

# R.A.D.A.R.

Recognizing Acute Delirium As part of you Routine  
 © Philippe Voyer

[www.fsi.ulaval.ca/radar](http://www.fsi.ulaval.ca/radar)



Patient addressograph

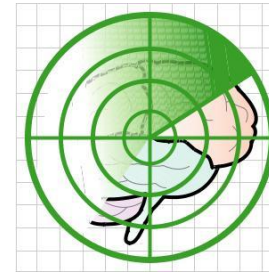
When you gave the patient his/her medication... (Tick Yes or No)		Date:			Date:			Date:			Date:			Date:			Date:			Date:			
		Yes	No	Initials	Yes	No	Initials	Yes	No	Initials	Yes	No	Initials	Yes	No	Initials	Yes	No	Initials	Yes	No	Initials	
1. ... was the patient drowsy?	08:00																						
	12:00																						
	17:00																						
	HS																						
2. ... did the patient have trouble following your instructions?	08:00																						
	12:00																						
	17:00																						
	HS																						
3. ... were the patient's movements slowed down?	08:00																						
	12:00																						
	17:00																						
	HS																						

Name	Initials	Name	Initials	Name	Initials	Name	Initials

The authors cannot be held accountable for any damages whatsoever, direct or indirect, resulting from the use of RADAR. Using RADAR may not be suitable for some patients and under no circumstances can it replace the clinical judgement of a health professional.

# R.A.D.A.R.

Recognizing Acute Delirium As part of you Routine  
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## Pointers for Specific Elements

RADAR items	Pointers
1. ... Was the patient drowsy?	Did he/she have a tendency to fall asleep? Did he/she have difficulty staying awake?
2. ... Did the patient have difficulty following your instructions?	Did he/she take the medication when you gave it to them? Did he/she hold out his/her hand? Did he/she bring the medication up to their mouth? Did he/she take the glass of water (or drink it) when you offered it to him/her? Did his/her gaze follow your movements or gestures when you spoke to him/her (visual contact)?
3. ... Were the patient's movements slowed down?	Did he/she move slowly? Was the patient slow when he/she sat, walked and took his/her medication?
	If you happened to observe one of those behaviours since the distribution of medication, tick "Yes". In case of doubt, also tick "Yes".

To learn more about RADAR, visit the website: [www.fsi.ca/radar](http://www.fsi.ca/radar)

# Delirium learning resources

**Training for RADAR is available at** [http://www.radar.fsi.ulaval.ca/?page\\_id=54](http://www.radar.fsi.ulaval.ca/?page_id=54)

- RADAR powerpoint training – is ppt with imbedded video clips of different types of delirium [Download RADAR powerpoint training](#)
- RADAR video training – is ppt with training voice over  
([To download this video training \(compressed ZIP file\), click here](#))

## **Information is readily accessible**

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=29&v=hwz9M2jZi\\_o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=29&v=hwz9M2jZi_o)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qmMYsVaZ0zo>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BPfZgBmcQB8&feature=youtu.be>
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_c9M4FnDwOc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_c9M4FnDwOc)
- The International Federation of Delirium Societies video gallery [www.idelirium.org](http://www.idelirium.org)
- London Hospital Resource Centre: Critical Care Trauma Centre: Delirium Resource Centre  
<https://www.lhsc.on.ca/critical-care-trauma-centre/delirium-resource-centre>

## **Staff, patients' and families experiences**

Utilise staff, patients' and families' experiences of episodes of delirium in an acute hospital setting to enhance your learning about caring for patients and families during an episode of delirium and help improve communication and continued engagement with everyone involved.