

Confusion Assessment Method (CAM)

Delirium requires: Presence of 1 & 2 and either 3 or 4

Abrupt onset

- 1) Is there evidence of an acute change in mental status from baseline?

Inattention

- 2) a. Did the client have difficulty focusing attention? Easily distractable? Can't keep track of what was said?
- not present at time of interview
 - present during interview but mild present and marked
 - uncertain
- b. (if present or abnormal) did this fluctuate during the interview? ie. Tend to come and go?
- c. (if present or abnormal) Please describe behaviour.

Disorganized Thinking

- 3) Was the client's thinking disorganized or incoherent, such as rambling, irrelevant, unclear or illogical flow of ideas, unpredictable switching of topics?

Altered Level of Consciousness

- 4) Overall how would you rate the level of consciousness?
- alert vigilant (hyperalert) overly sensitive to stimuli? Startles easily?
 - lethargic (drowsy, easily aroused) stupor coma uncertain

Also Features:

Disorientation

- 1) Was the client disoriented? Thinks he/she is in the wrong bed? Wrong place?

Memory Impairment

- 2) Demonstration of memory problems: can't remember instructions, events since admission etc

Perceptual Disturbances

- 3) Evidence of disturbances: hallucinations? illusions? misinterpretations?

Psychomotor

- 8) **Part 1 Agitation:** restlessness? picking @ clothes? tapping fingers?

Part 2 Retardation: ↓ motor activity? sluggishness? staring into space? moving slowly?

Altered sleep-wake cycle

- 9) disturbance of routines? Excessive daytime sleepiness with insomnia @ night?