

A better way to care for patients with delirium in hospital



Delirium is an acute disturbance of consciousness, attention, and cognition that tends to fluctuate during the course of the day.

Delirium is common in hospital



10% of patients aged 70 and over have delirium on admission to hospital



Up to 80% of patients aged 70 and over in intensive care have delirium



Patients with dementia are 6x more likely to develop delirium

Patients with delirium are at greater risk of harm



30-40%

Delirium is easier to prevent than to treat. 30-40% of cases are preventable



50% of the time delirium is misdiagnosed, not detected or not identified in hospital



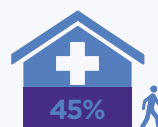
Not recognising delirium is a safety and quality issue



Patients with delirium have more falls, pressure injuries, functional decline and ongoing cognitive difficulties



Patients with delirium are more likely to die



45% of delirium in older patients is unresolved on discharge from hospital



Patients with delirium are 2x more likely to go into residential care prematurely after discharge

We can improve hospital care of patients with delirium



Be alert to delirium and the risk of harm for patients



Recognise and respond to patients with delirium



Provide safe and high-quality care tailored to the needs of patients with delirium

www.safetyandquality.gov.au/abetterwaytocare #BetterWayToCare

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