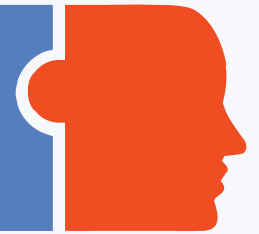


# A better way to care for patients with delirium in hospital



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



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



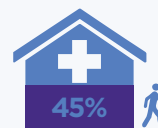
Not recognising delirium is a safety and quality issue



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](http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/abetterwaytocare) #BetterWayToCare

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