

Delirium Screening Tool

CONFUSION ASSESSMENT METHOD (CAM)

The CAM is a validated tool to be used in assisting with the differential diagnosis of Delirium. It should be used for any older person who appears to be disorientated / confused or who has any change in behaviour or LOC. It is important that the CAM is used in conjunction with a formal cognitive assessment (e.g. AMT/ SMMSE), good clinical and medical assessment, together with baseline cognition information from carers/family or the community or residential aged care service

1	Acute onset and fluctuating course	No	Yes	Uncertain, <i>Specify:</i> _____	Is there evidence of an acute change in mental status from the patient's baseline? If so, did the abnormal behaviour fluctuate during the day?	e.g. tend to come and go, or increase and decrease in severity
2	Inattention	No	Yes	Uncertain, <i>Specify:</i> _____	Did the patient have difficulty focusing attention during the interview?	e.g. being easily distracted, or having difficulty keeping track of what was being said?
3	Disorganised thinking	No	Yes	Uncertain, <i>Specify:</i> _____	Was the patient's thinking disorganised or organised?	e.g. Rambling or irrelevant conversation, unclear or illogical flow of ideas, or unpredictable switching from one subject to another?
4	Altered level of consciousness	No	Yes	Uncertain, <i>Specify:</i> _____	Overall, how would you rate the patient's level of consciousness?	Altered e.g. Vigilant, Lethargic, Stupor, Coma, Uncertain.

Delirium is present if features 1 and 2 AND either 3 or 4 are present

Delirium symptoms: not present / present Date: / /

Medical Officer notified? Yes / No