

Clear pathways and good communication – the key to good care

If you are still not sure about delirium & don't know what to do:

- Read the posters, use the education box, follow the pathways

Look at your residents with fresh eyes....



Is the patient ill or showing signs of delirium?

- Sudden onset
- Increased or Fluctuating confusion
- Poor attention, rambling conversation
- Increased lethargy or agitation



Investigate the cause of the delirium:

Pain - Infection - Constipation - Dehydration - Medication - Environment

Complete a delirium checklist

- Use the delirium care pathways to treat and manage the delirium



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DEHYDRATION
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CONSTIPATION
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URINE & CATHETER INFECTION
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ENVIRONMENT
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MEDICATION EFFECT
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PAIN
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Complete all care, and record accurately

Record the care given, record all the observations, update the resident's notes

Place it in the residents notes as an accurate record of the delirium episode

Communicate to staff

Tell them about the delirium at the time and in handover

Use the communications book for requested tests & referrals so that the all staff on the next shift are fully aware.

Communicate to the doctor and practice nurse

Use the checklist to describe the resident's condition accurately

Communicate to relatives

Your resident is very ill – the relatives should be informed-

Explain what delirium is and how it is affecting their relative

Remember to tell them when the resident is improving



**There is always something a good carer can do to help a resident feel better
Preventing delirium will save you time in the long run**