

Identifying & Managing Delirium in the Hospital

March 10, 2022



Health Care Quality Improvement Continues

Heather Napier MSN, RN, CCRN
Executive Director of Quality and Outcomes
Baptist Health Corbin

Bill Bryant MD, FAAFP, CPHQ, CPPS
Chief Quality & Patient Safety Officer
Owensboro Health



Objectives

- Link delirium with the IHI 4Ms Bundle
- Describe the impact of delirium on hospital outcomes
- Describe evidence based practice for prevention, identification, and management of delirium in the hospitalized patient
- Define delirium, encephalopathy, and coma

The 4Ms



A **bundle**
an essential set of
best practices

Holistic

Mentation



Case Management Note

Patient is currently confused.

He does not recognize his spouse or daughter

What Matters



Case Management Note
Goals of post-acute care (per spouse)

“to get back home”

Mobility

Mentation



Case Management Note

- Anticipated barriers to discharge
 - Chronic disease
 - Decreased **mobility**
 - Decreased **mentation**

Mentation



I think he may have dementia.

Why do you say that?

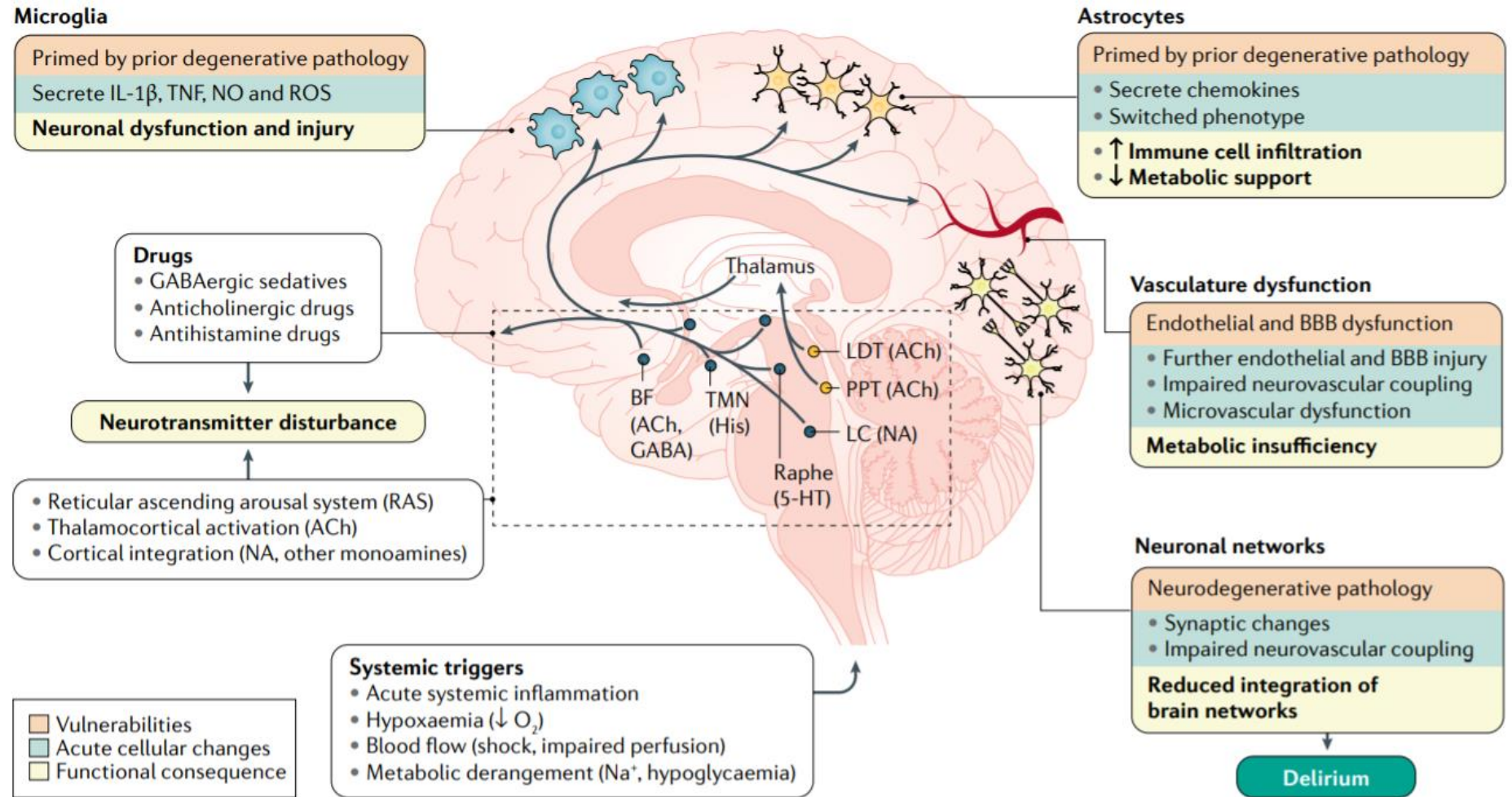
Well the way he acts...picking at things...
he acts like someone with dementia

To Get Back Home?

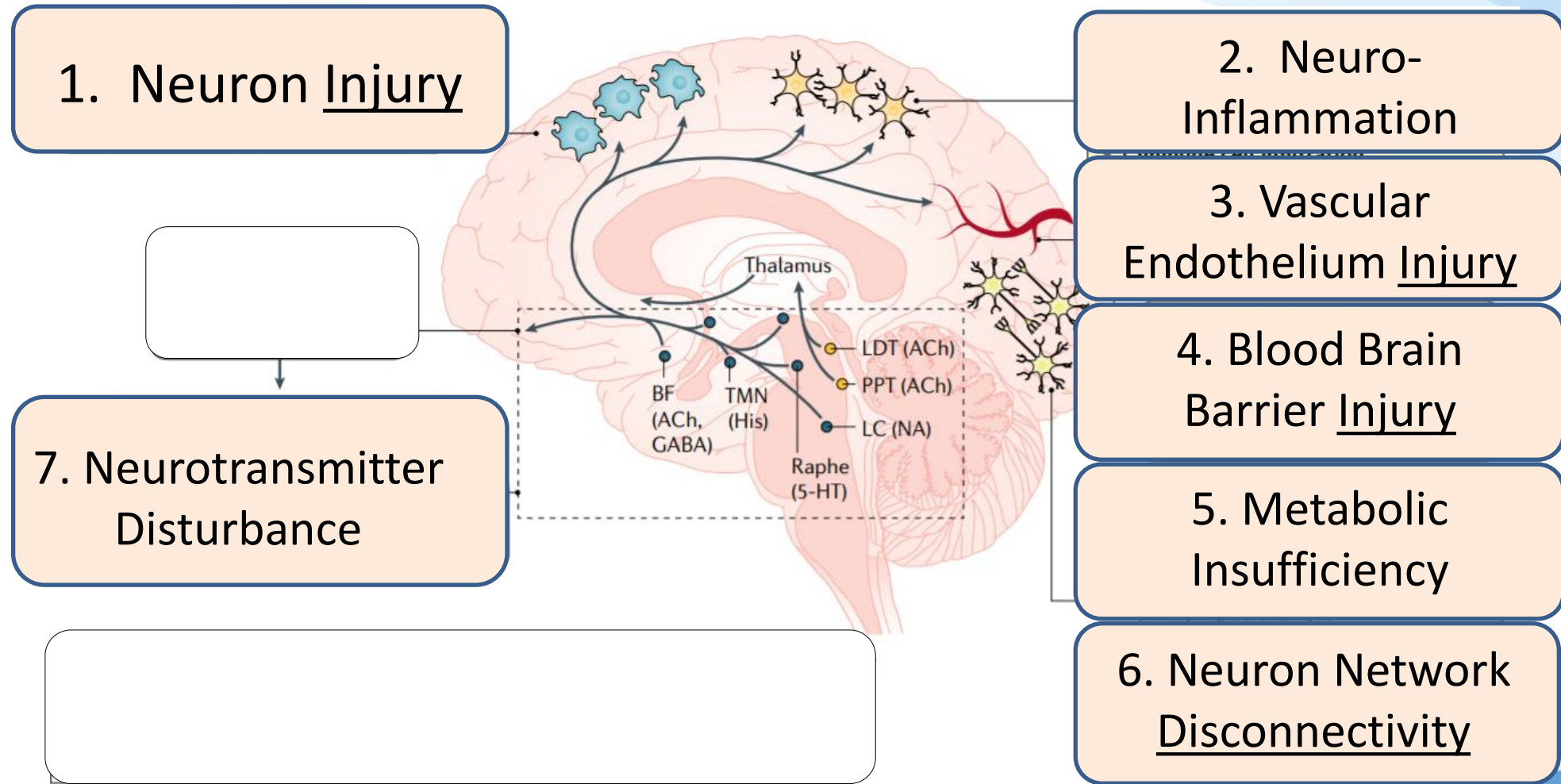


- Longer hospitalization
- Higher rate of discharge to a skilled nursing facility
- Higher mortality
- Worse physical, cognitive, and social outcomes

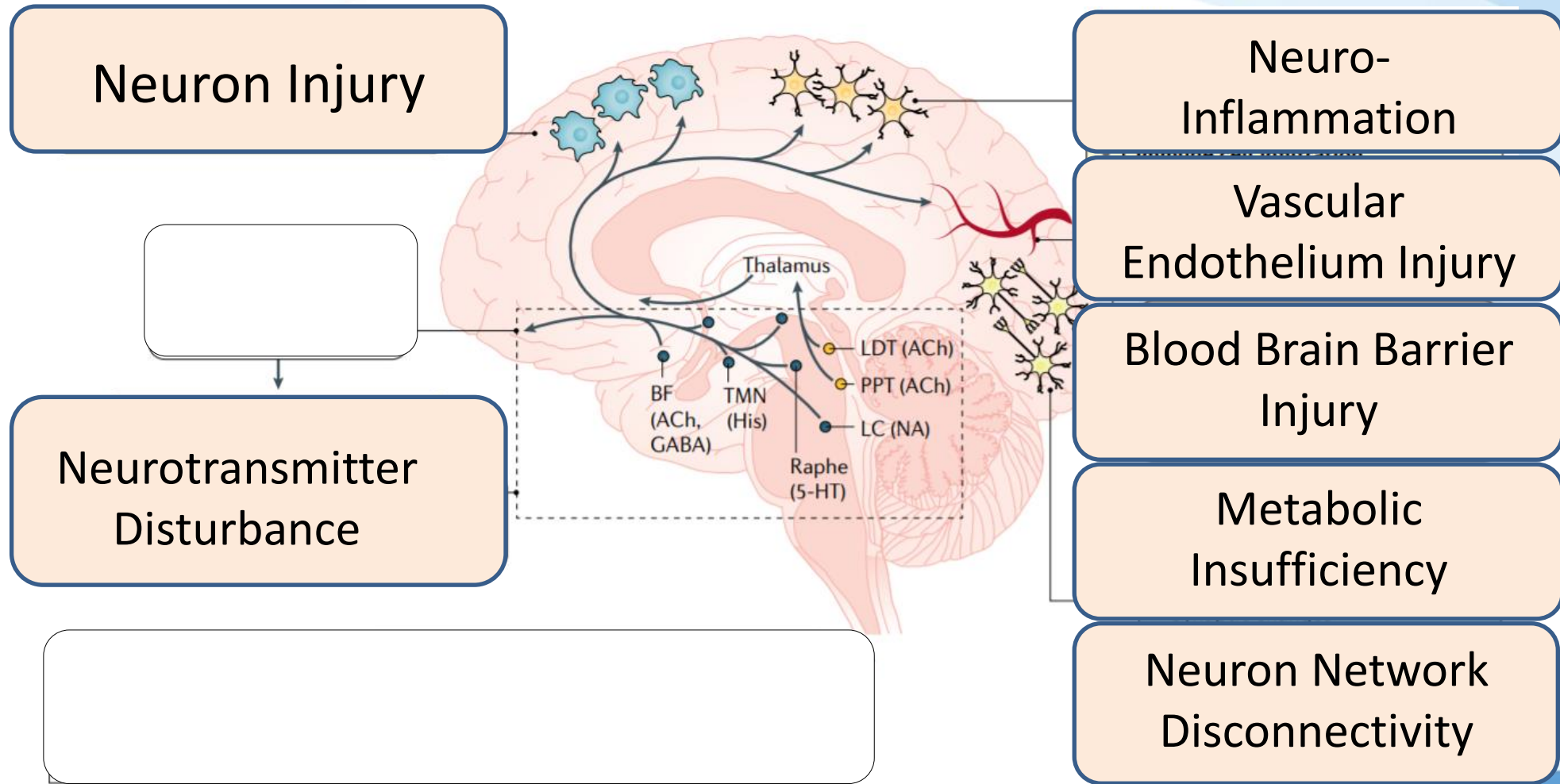
“Bad Things Happening”



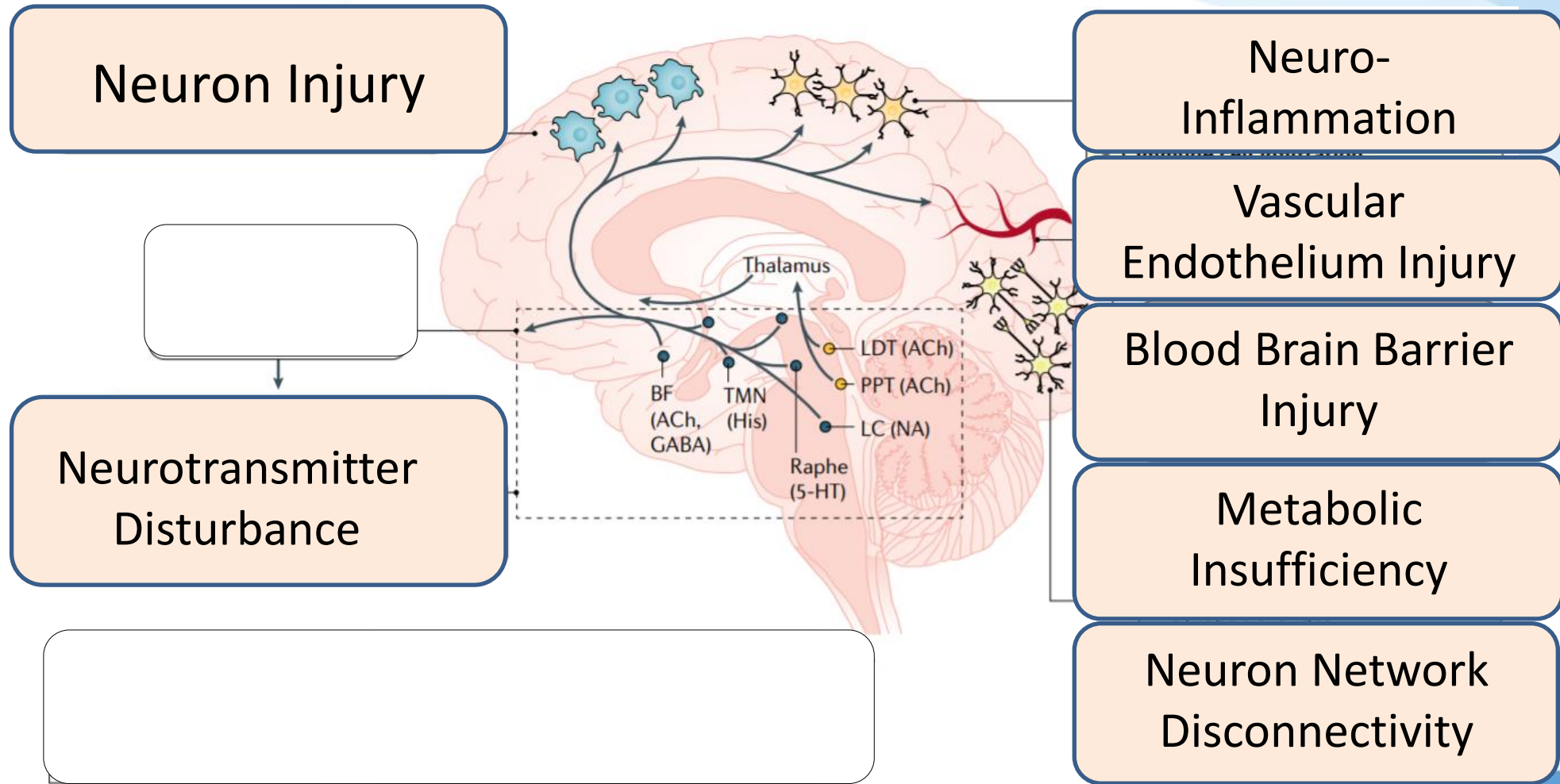
“Bad Things Happening”



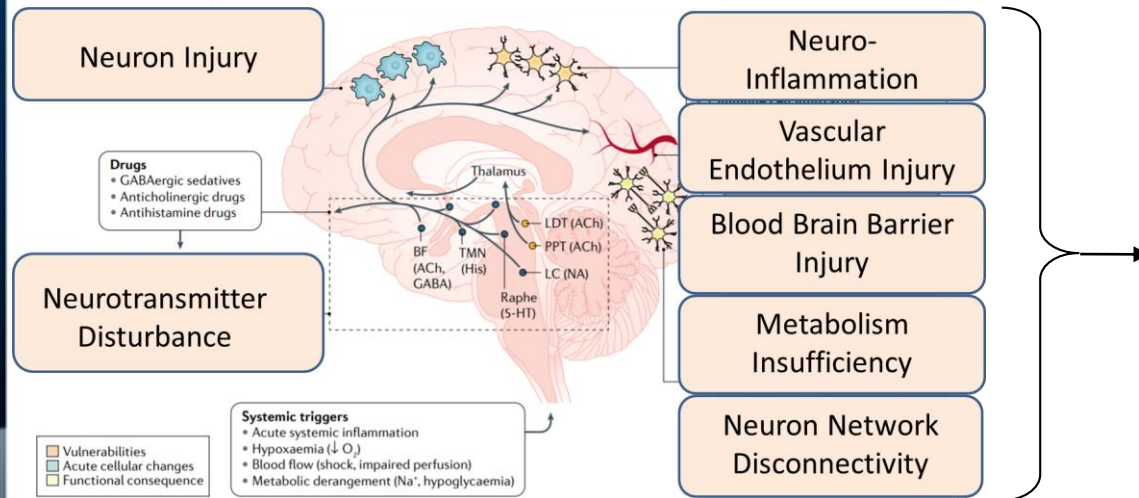
~~“Pleasantly Confused”~~



“~~He’s just sun~~ downing”

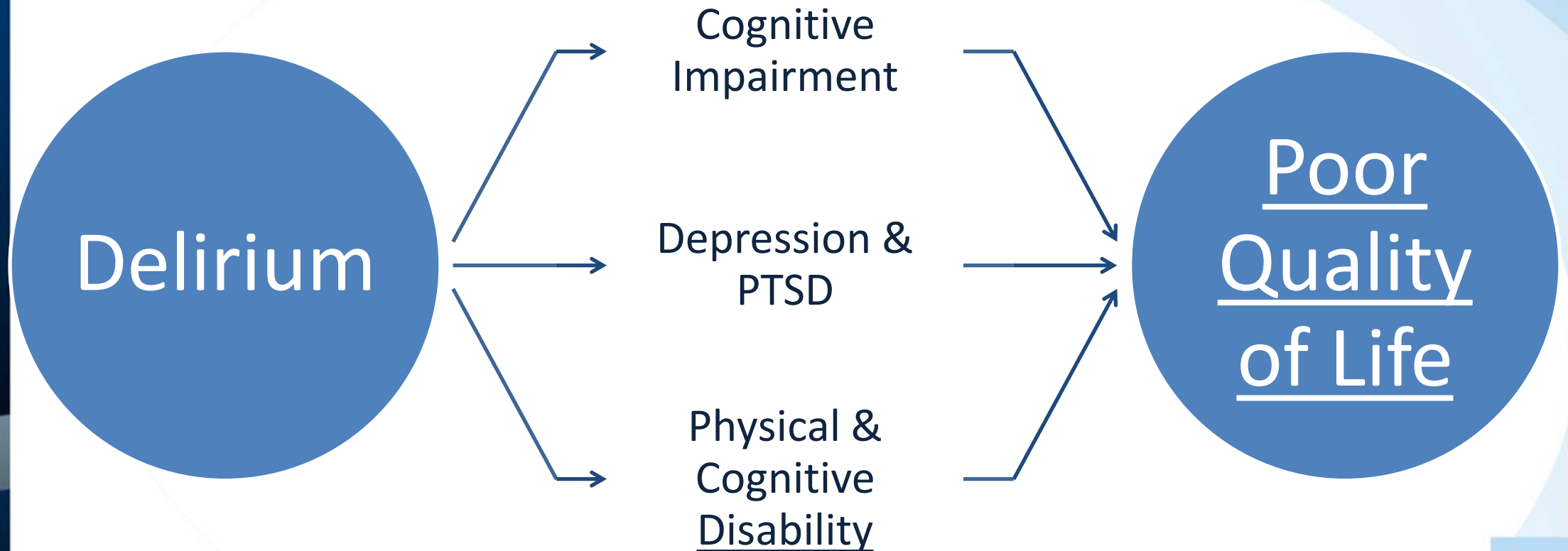


Strongly Associated with Multiple Short-term Adverse Outcomes



- Falls
- Aspiration pneumonia
- Distress
- Other events
- ↑ short-term mortality

Long-lasting Effects reach Beyond the Brain



**Post Intensive Care Syndrome (PICS)
Post Hospitalization Syndrome**

What Matters

Delirium is the most common neuropsychiatric syndrome found in the general hospital setting

> 2/3 may go unrecognized

> 1/3 of cases are preventable

Maldonado. Delirium in the Critical Care Unit. CriticalCare.theclinics.com

Responding to Ten Common Delirium Misconceptions with Best Evidence: An Educational Review for clinicians. Mark A Oldham et al. J. Neuropsychiatry Clin Neurosci 30:1 Winter 2018

Baptist Health Corbin

Heather Napier MSN, RN, CCRN
Executive Director of Quality and Outcomes

**Kentucky
Hospital
Association**

*Representing Kentucky
Hospitals and Health
Systems*



Health Care Quality Improvement Continues

Background and Problem

Project focus:

Critical Care unit at Baptist Health Corbin
10 bed medical ICU

Assessment: Lack of formal training to identify, prevent and treat delirium. Providers and nursing staff unclear of treatment pathways and inconsistent use of screening tools.

Planning Phase

- A multi-disciplinary team was commissioned by the Clinical Leadership Council to review current state and implement solutions using Process Excellence Change Agent Tools, which includes Deming's four step process of Plan Do Check Act.
- The team conducted a review of the literature and developed an evidence table of best practices to adopt in the CCU.
- A gap analysis compared the CCU current state of delirium prevention to recent evidence-based practice (EBP), which revealed CCU Staff had limited resources for delirium prevention and lacked knowledge of current EBP prevention techniques.

Planning Phase

The CCU delirium intervention project started early January 2020 with a multi-disciplinary team that included nursing, hospital providers and the critical care intensivist. The team met to collaborate on protocols and prioritize interventions from the evidence table.

Discussed Delirium Prevention Interventions

- Strategies:
 - Improve Cognitive Simulation
 - Improve Orientation
 - Preserve Sleep-Wake cycle
 - Improve/Preserve Mobility
 - Avoid potentially “toxic” medications
 - Engage Patients & Family

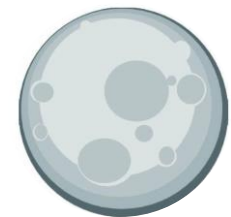
Delirium Prevention

Preserve Sleep-Wake cycle

- Visual cues
 - Posters for day and night reference
 - Human-Centric lighting (Circadian Lighting)
- Minimize nighttime interruptions
 - Lights out/ Close Doors
- Daytime Stimulation- Minimize unnecessary noise/stimuli
 - Lights on
 - TV on (calming shows or preferred music only)
 - Upright or out of bed during day
 - Turn bed to face window, open blinds
 - Naps ok, but encourage awake during day to increase sleep at night
 - No caffeine after 3pm
- Non-Pharmacological Sleep Protocol

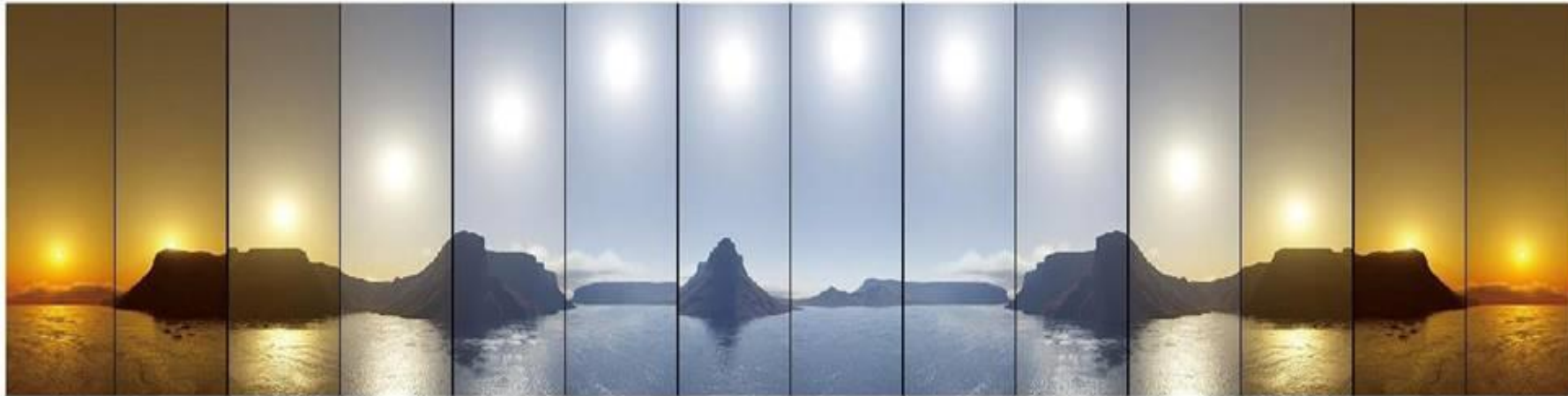


Day

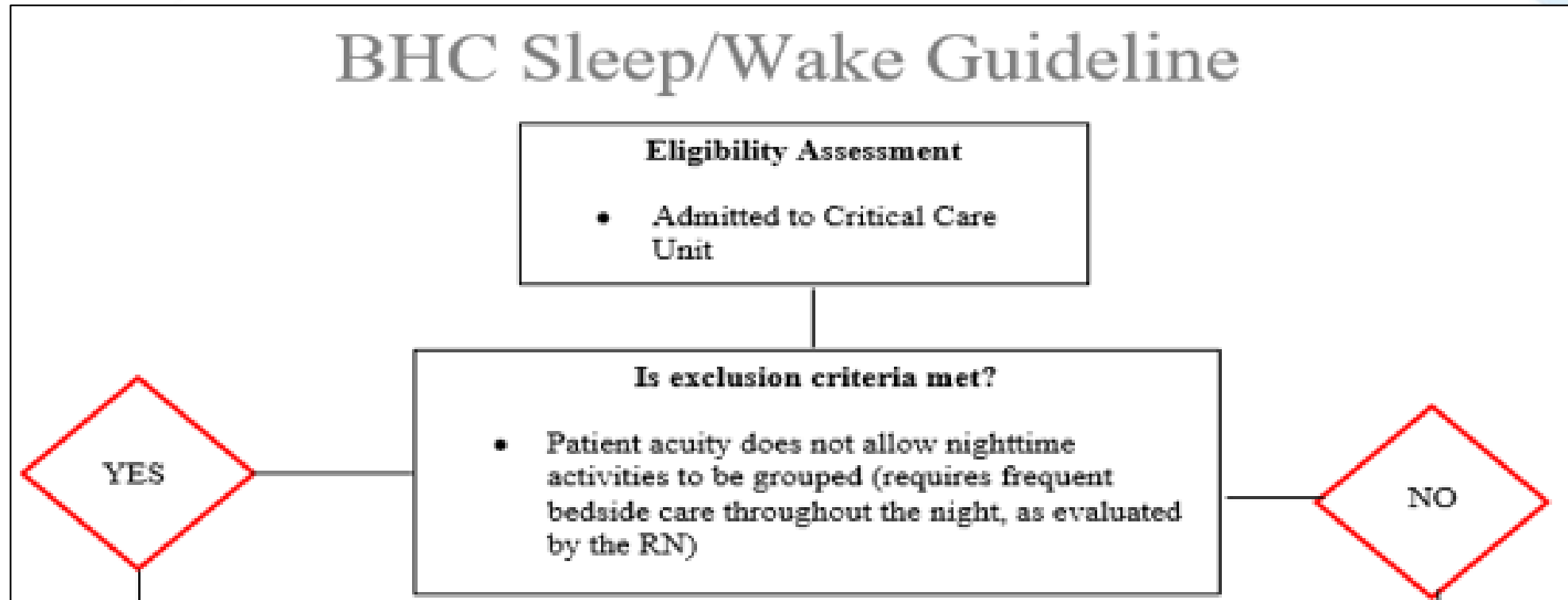


Night

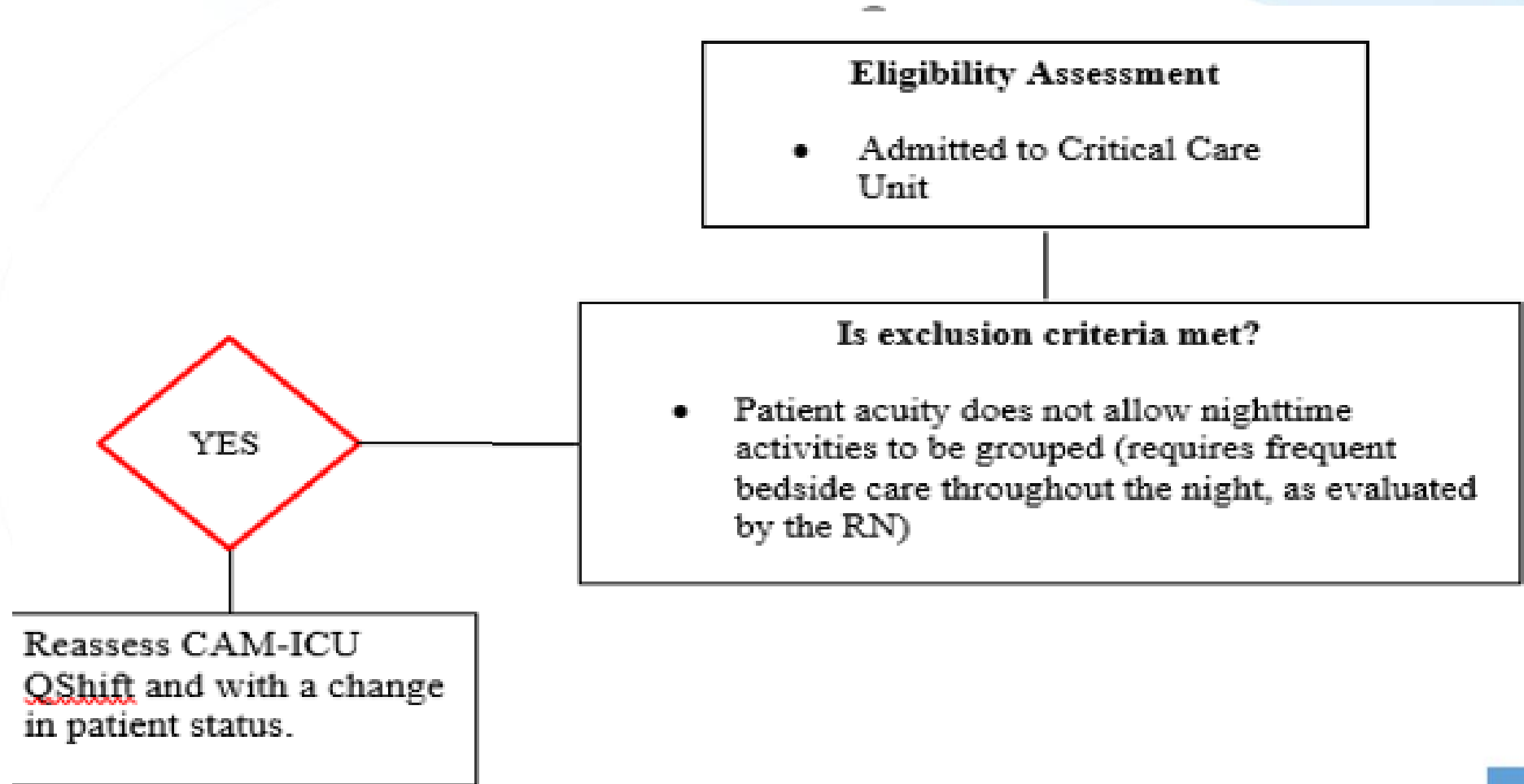
Human-Centric lighting (Circadian Lighting)



Determining ICU Patients Eligibility for Clustered Care



BHC Sleep/Wake Guideline



Sleep /Wake Guidelines for ICU patients who were Identified Appropriate

SLEEP

- Ensure appropriate pain control
- Optimize room temperature
- Warm bath before 2300
- TV off by 2300
- Prevent extra alarms after 2300
- Close Room curtain by 2300
- Dim room lights by 2300
- Family out by 2200
- Door half/fully closed after 2300
- Bundle care starting at 2200
 - RN care
 - Lab Draws
 - Medications (work with pharmacy to bundle)
- Offer ear plugs
- Dim hallway lights by 2300
- Nurses station quiet

WAKE

Follow Delirium Prevention Measures as appropriate:

- Improve Cognitive Simulation
 - Vision- Glasses
 - Hearing- Hearing Aids
 - Taste- Nutrition, early correction of dehydration
 - Touch- Preserve mobility, pain management
 - Thought- Provide cognitively stimulating activities for patients multiple times per day. *i.e.* books, puzzles and games.
- Improve Orientation
 - Repeated reorientation- Introduce yourself, your role and location at every patient encounter.
 - Keep a clock and calendar in room and refer to time of day at patient encounter.
- Preserve Sleep-Wake Cycle (Controlled Daytime Stimulation)
 - Lights on
 - TV on (music or calming shows.
 - Upright or out of bed during day
 - Open blinds
 - No caffeine after 3pm
- Improve/Preserve Mobility
 - Early Activity Assessment
 - ROM
 - Ambulation
 - Up in chair
- Avoid potentially "toxic" medications
 - Consider Pharmacy consult.
- Engage Patient and Family
 - Encourage family visits
 - Communicate expectations
 - Use simplified speech, be concrete, take your time.

Delirium Prevention

Improve/Preserve Mobility

- Reduce Foley use, IVs, restraints, monitors
- Encourage ambulation!
 - PT/OT
 - Not only does early mobility prevent delirium, but it is the only intervention shown to result in a decrease in days of delirium
 - Functional outcomes are also improved with early mobility.
 - It consists of activities from passive range of motion to ambulation
 - Mobility also helps make sleep more restful

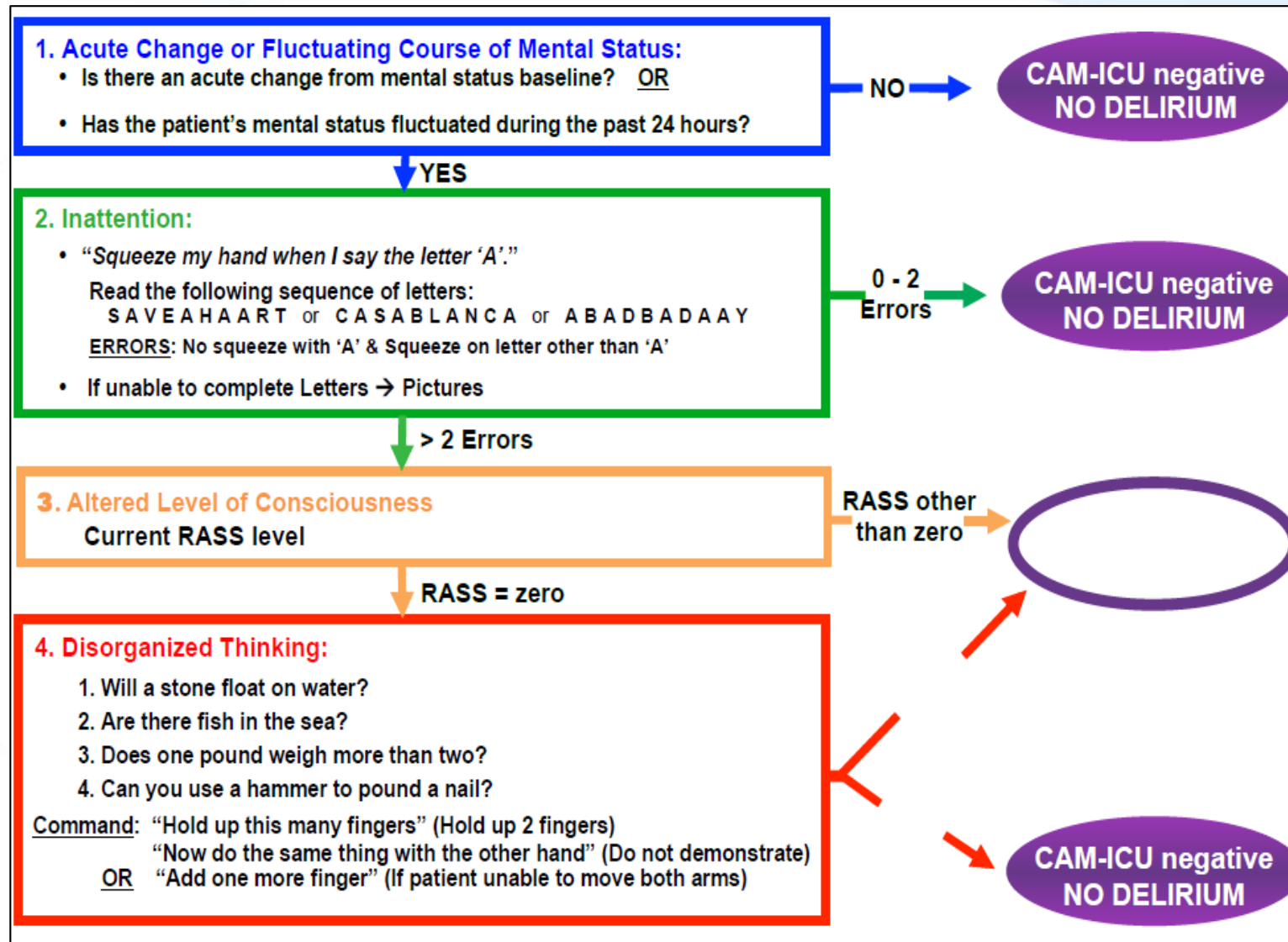
Delirium Prevention Patient and Family Engagement and Communication

- Facilitate regular family visits (utilize family for reorientation and cognitively stimulating activities) within visitation guidelines.
- Encourage patient's family to bring personal items.

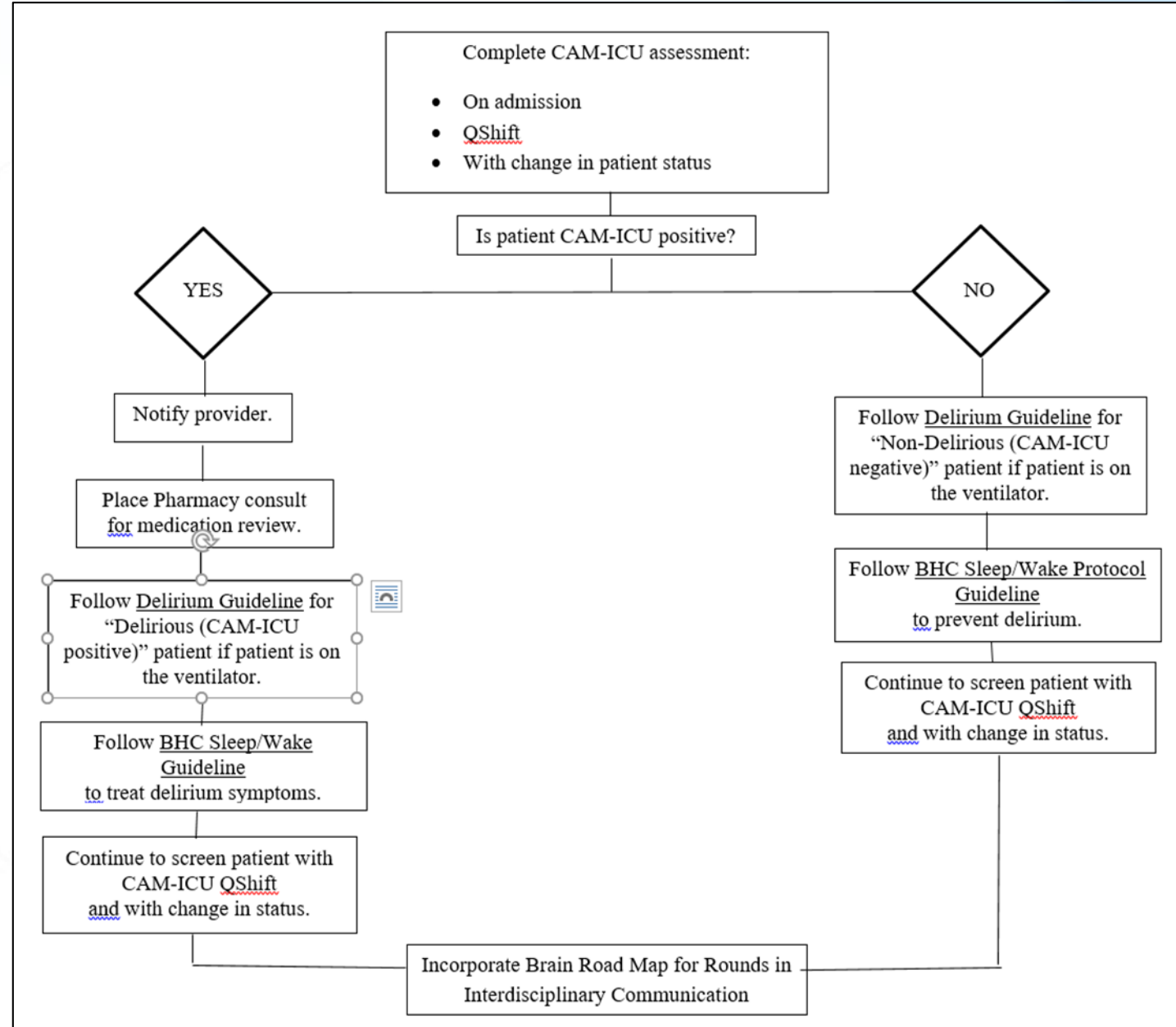
Delirium Identification & Assessment

- Confusion assessment Model (CAM- ICU):
 - On Admission
 - Every shift
 - With change in patient's status

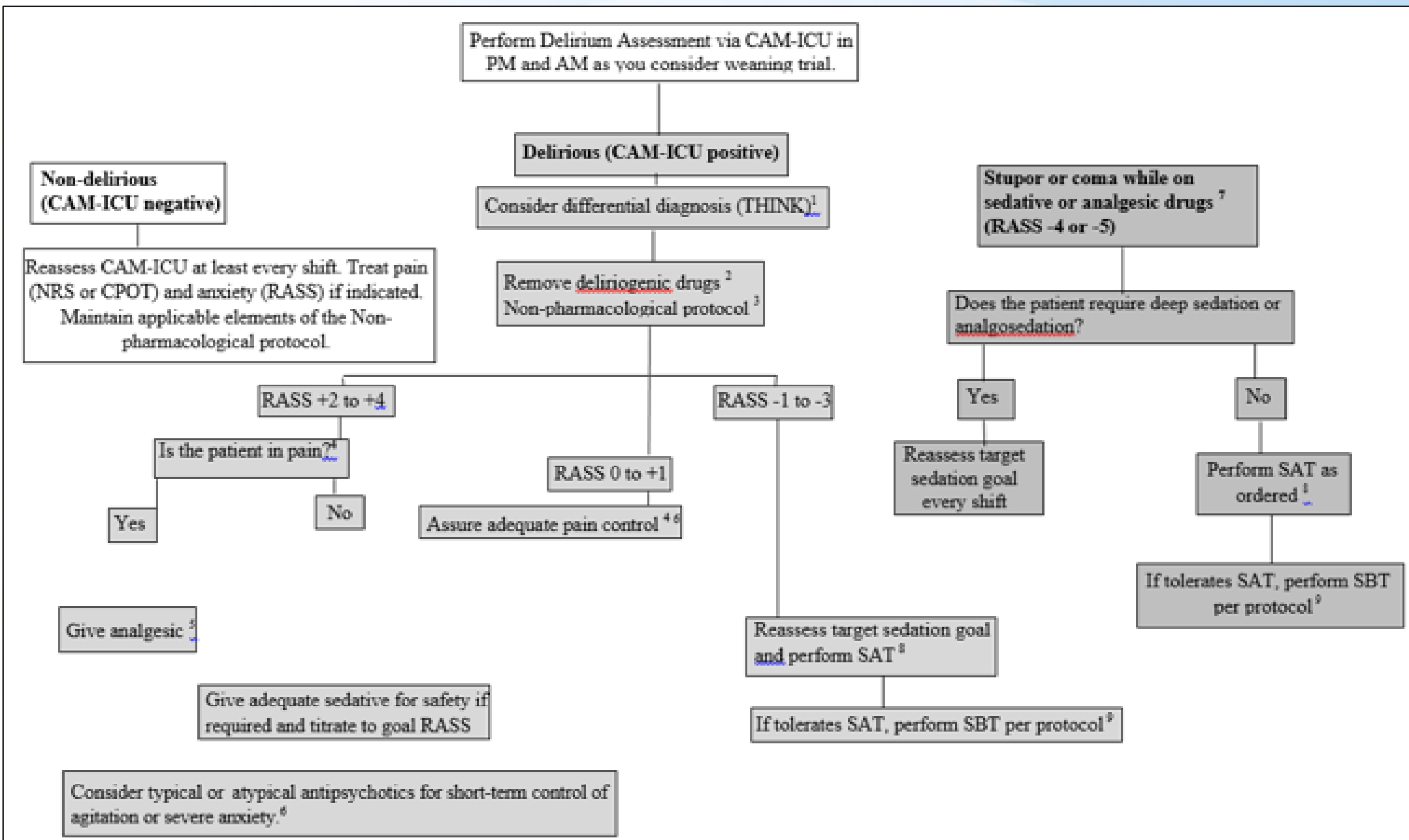
Delirium Identification & Assessment



Delirium Prevention: CCU Workflow



Identification & Assessment Guidelines for Ventilator patients



Outcome Tracking

Monitoring

Length of Stay in the ICU

Restraint Days

Ventilator Days

Reintubations within 24 hours

Sustaining our Efforts

Monthly Audits of processes:

Staff utility of day/night poster

Chart review – CAM screenings

Staff understanding of prevention techniques

Continuing Improvement

- Identifying and knocking down barriers
- Post Intensive Care Syndrome (PICS)

Post- Intensive Care Syndrome

- What is it?
 - Health problems that remain after a critical illness
 - Can persist after the patient returns home
 - Can involve patient's body, thoughts, feelings or mind and can impact the patients family
 - Can present as ICU-acquired weakness and Cognitive (brain) dysfunction

ICU Acquired Weakness

Loss of muscle mass and reduced muscle strength

33% of all patients on ventilators

50% of all patients admitted with Sepsis,

Up to 50% of patients who stay in the ICU for at least one week

Patients who develop ICU-Acquired Weakness can take up to a year to recover and can impact their ability to perform activities of daily living.

Cognitive (Brain) Dysfunction

Loss of intellectual functions such as thinking, remembering, and reasoning

- Experience difficulty with solving problems, organizing and working on complex tasks
- 30% to 80% of patients may have this problem after leaving the ICU
- Can experience PTSD, anxiousness and depression

Post-Intensive Care Syndrome Relationship with Delirium

- Practicing many of the interventions we use to prevent delirium can help prevent PICS
- Use family to help keep patient oriented
- Focus on occupational and physical therapy (Mobility, Mobility, Mobility)
- Treatment for anxiety and depression
- Provide support for caregivers

Owensboro Health

Bill Bryant MD, FAAFP, CPHQ, CPPS
Chief Quality & Patient Safety Officer



Health Care Quality Improvement Continues

NuDESC: Nursing Delirium Screening Scale

Assesses
5 Categories
of Behavior

1. Disorientation
2. Inappropriate Behavior
3. Inappropriate Communication
4. Illusions/Hallucinations
5. Psychomotor Retardation

NuDESC Score =

For Each Behavior

Not Present = 0
Present (Less Severe) = 1
Present (More Severe) = 2

If total is ≥ 2 then patient
screens positive for delirium

Misconception #1: Patient is oriented. There is no delirium

NuDESC

- Nurse assesses patient:
 1. Upon admission
 2. Every shift
 - Assessment is completed toward end of shift
 - Pulling from what has been occurring during the shift
 - Not dependent on prior knowledge of patient's cognition and/or behavior
 3. Anytime patient status changes

AWOL Delirium Risk Predictor

A = Is the patient 80 years old or more?

No = 0 Yes = 1

W = Unable to correctly spell WORLD backward

No = 0 Yes = 1

O = Not oriented to city, state, county, hospital

No = 0 Yes = 1

L = Illness Severity of Moderate, Severe, or Moribund

No = 0 Yes = 1

Admission required documentation and populates for all patients.

If score is ≥ 2
then patient
is at risk for
delirium.

Implement
Delirium
Prevention
Protocol

Delirium Nurse Protocol

(separate
handout)

- Delirium Nursing Assessment every shift: NuDESC
- **Mobility** Assessment every shift: Mobility Protocol
- Fall Risk Assessment every shift
- Nutrition Assessment daily
- **Tether Assessment**
- Sensory and Orientation Assessment every shift
- Sleep Cycle Assessment daily
- Family Participation: Receive Delirium Guide
 - Familiar **Anchoring Objects**
- **Medications**

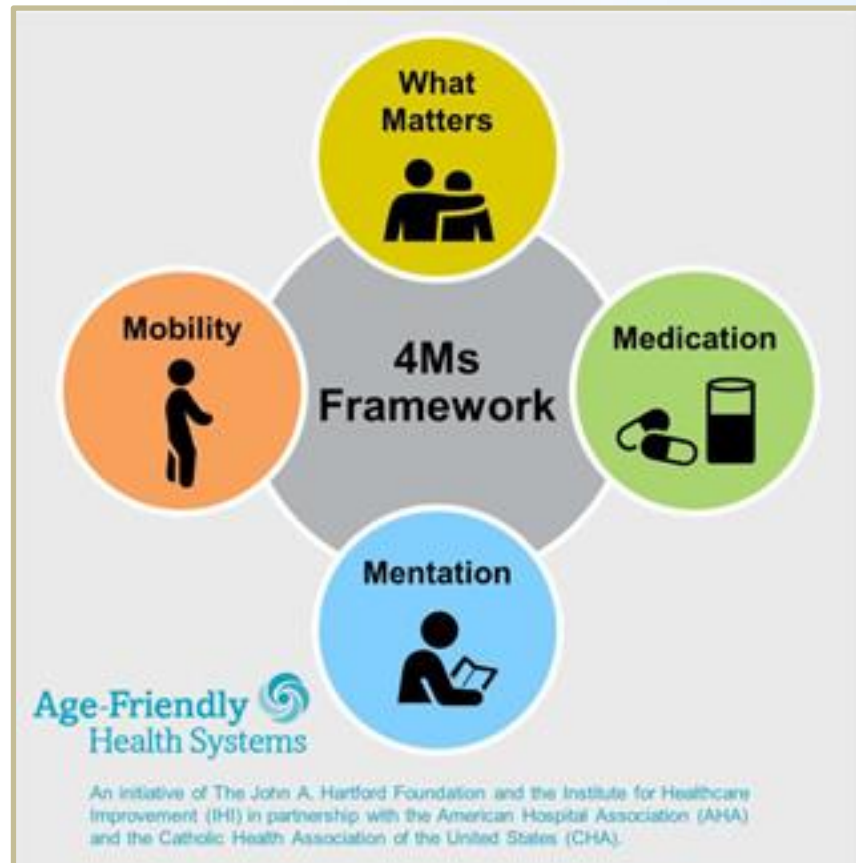
Tether Assessment

- **Foley Catheter**
- **Remote Telemetry**
- Sequential devices
- IV tubing
- Continuous pulse ox
- Oxygen tubing and devices
- Excessive bedding/blankets
- More...

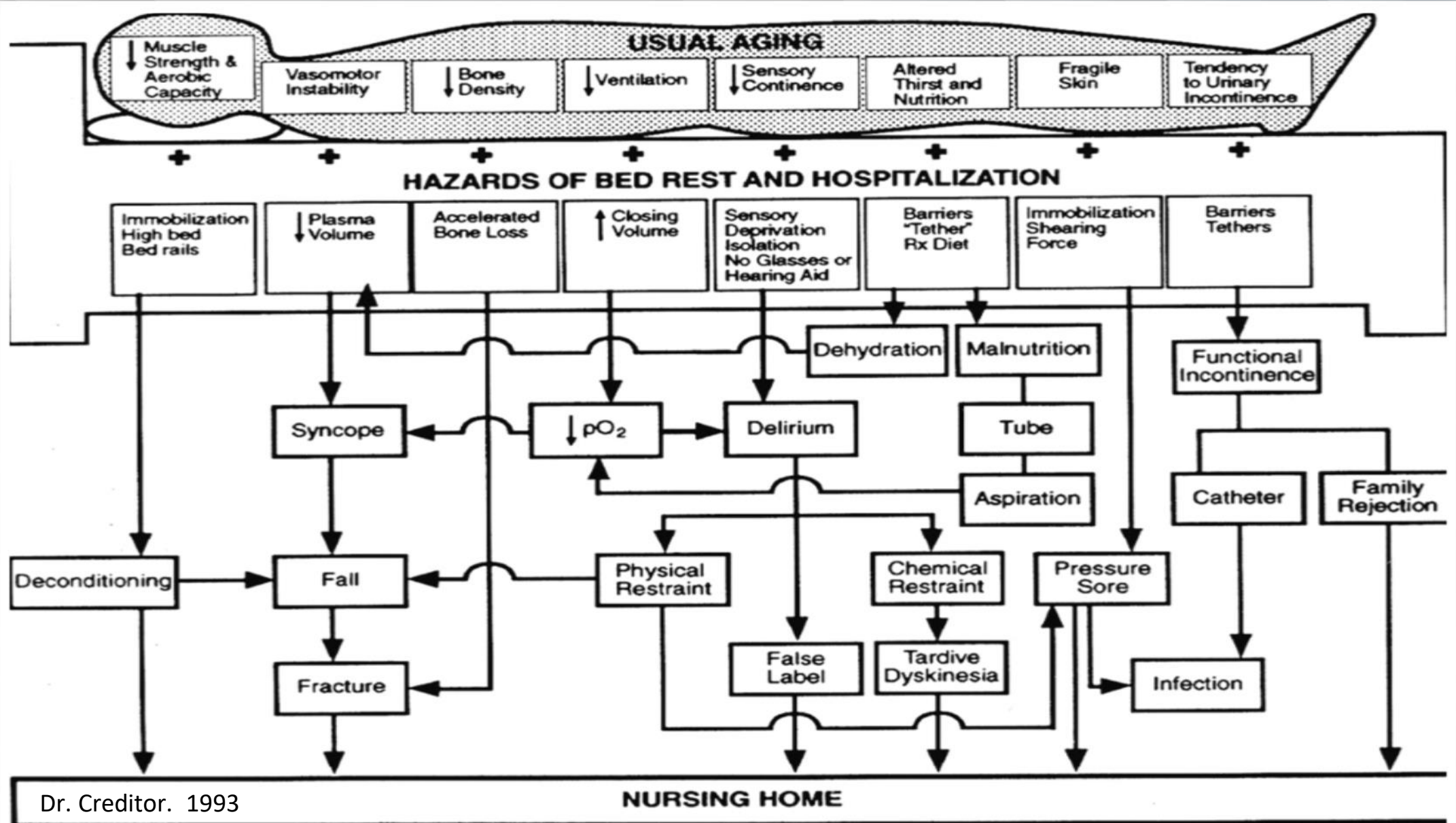
- In general, avoid use of meds including benzodiazepines for anxiety/restlessness.
- Continue pain medications for pain - Untreated severe pain can trigger delirium.
- Avoid use of meds for sleep - utilize only when all non-pharmacological interventions have been attempted.

Mobility

Ensure that older adults move safely every day in order to maintain function and do What Matters.



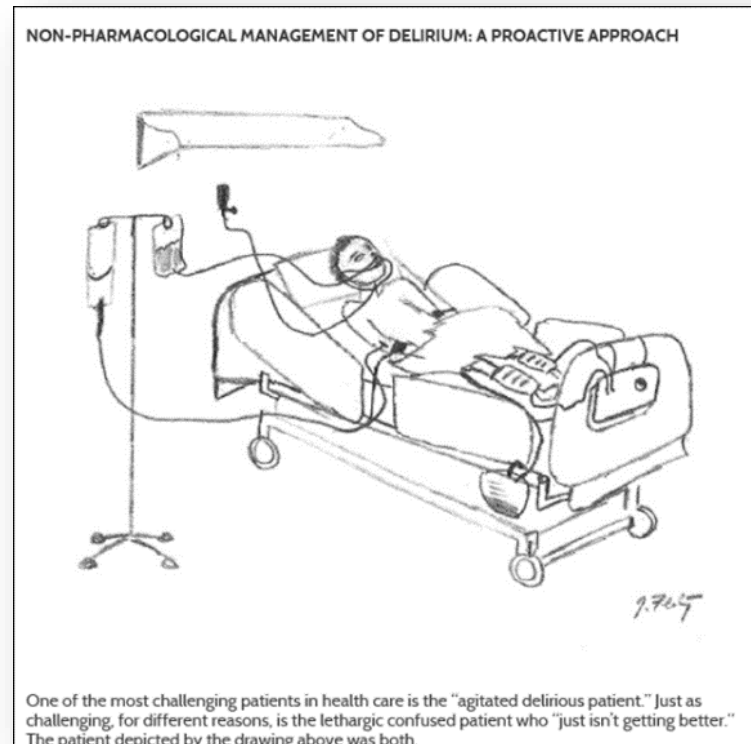
Mobility



Mobility

Mentation

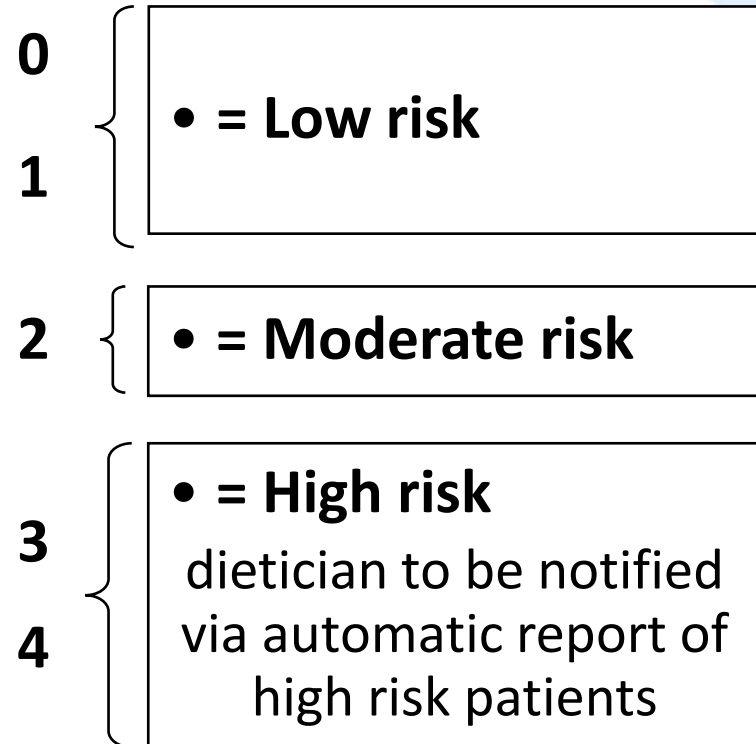
Delirium goes down as ambulation goes up
The brain works better in an upright position



Nutrition Screen

What Matters

- Age: 65 y.o or older
 - Yes = 1 No = 0
- On Regular Diet
 - Yes = 0 No = 1
- PO Intake $\leq 50\%$
 - Yes = 1 No = 0
- Recent decrease in PO intake in past 12 hours
 - Yes = 1 No = 0



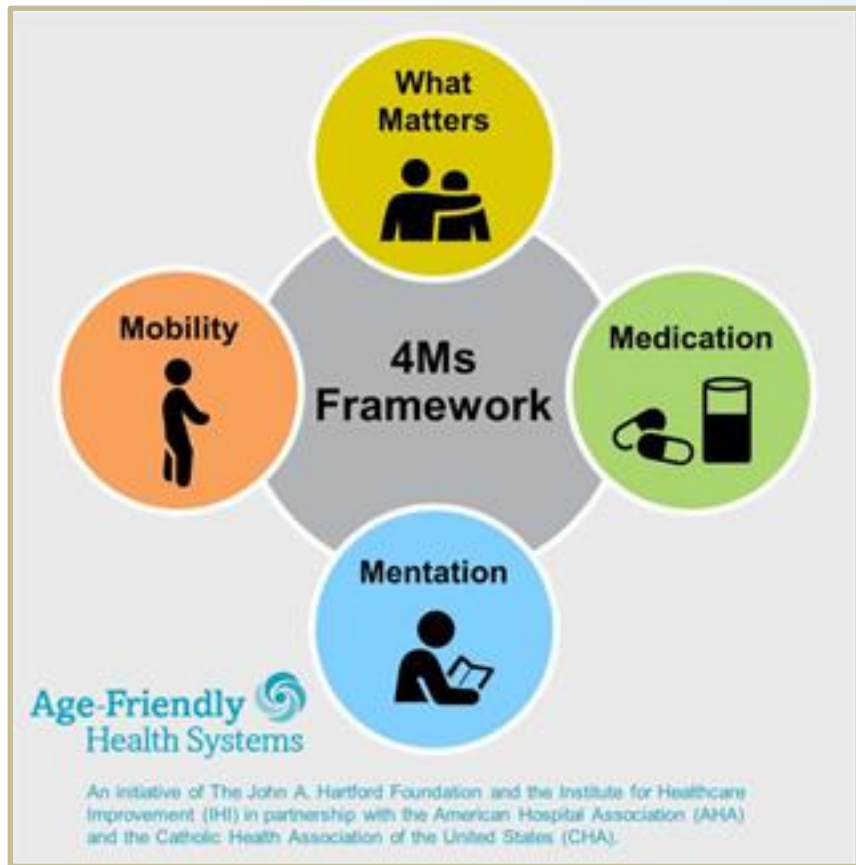
Pharmacy Acuity List

MAR Note for high risk delirium or delirium positive patients

BEERS List Medication – These medications are potentially inappropriate for older adults

- Zolpidem (Ambien)
- Zaleplon (Sonata)
- Eszopiclone (Lunesta)
- Temazepam (Restoril)
- Lorazepam (Ativan)
- Clonazepam (Klonopin)
- Alprazolam (Xanax)
- Diazepam (Valium)
- Hydroxyzine (Vistaril, Atarax)
- Amitriptyline (Elavil)
- Diphenhydramine (Benadryl)
- Meclizine (Antivert)
- Cyclobenzaprine (Flexeril)
- Methocarbamol (Robaxin)

(with Beers List 2019 Link)



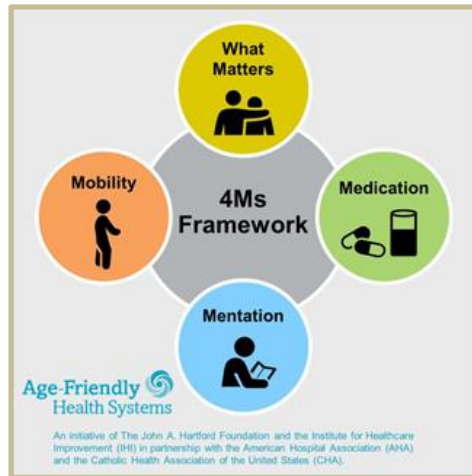
Medication

If medication is necessary, use Age-Friendly medication that does not interfere with 'What Matters' to the older adult, Mobility, or Mentation across settings of care.

Any symptom in an elderly patient should be considered a drug side effect until proven otherwise. J. Gurwitz

IHI Age Friendly

IHI Age Friendly Health System,
Committed to Care Excellence



Encourages us to assure we use
the 4Ms in our daily practice



Nurses Improving Care for
Health System Elders

Promotes programs and resources that
help reduce geriatric syndromes

- We are a member
- Engage bedside nurses as
Geriatric Resource Nurses
 - Curriculum

What Matters!

Confusing Terms

He's confused

Acute mental status change

Acute confusional state

Altered mental status

"He's just sun-downing"

"She's pleasantly confused"

"He just acts like someone with dementia"

Updated Nomenclature of Delirium and Acute Encephalopathy: Statement of Ten Societies.

Arjen J. C. Slooter et al. Intensive Care Med (2020) 46: 1020-1022

Delirium. Jo Ellen Wilson et al. Nature Reviews | Disease Primers (2020) 6:90

Preferred Terms

What Matters!

Acute Encephalopathy

A rapidly developing pathobiological process in the brain (usually hours or few days / <4 weeks)

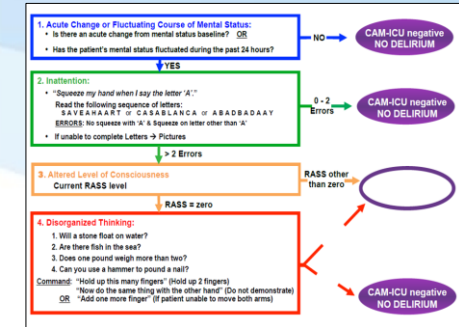
Delirium

A clinical state characterized by a combination of features (defined in the DSM-V)

Coma

A clinical state of severely depressed responsiveness defined by diagnostic systems such as the GCS or FOUR Score. (Reference slide)

Encephalopathy → Delirium



Underlying condition → Clinical manifestations

– For example:

- Metabolic Encephalopathy
- Hepatic Encephalopathy
- Toxic Encephalopathy

– Acute Change

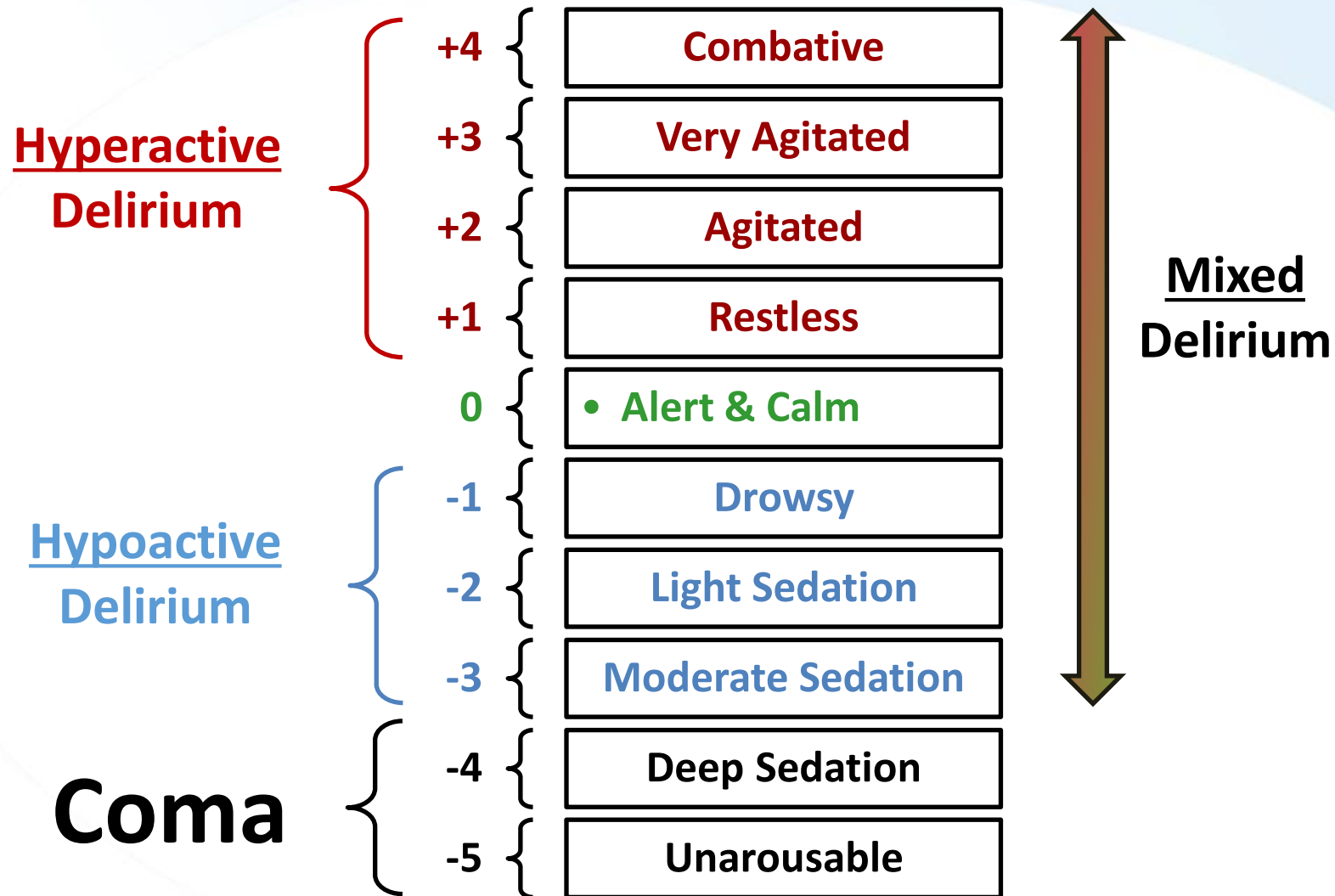
– Fluctuations

– Inattention**

– Altered Level of Consciousness

– Disorganized Thinking

RASS: Richmond Agitation & Sedation Scale



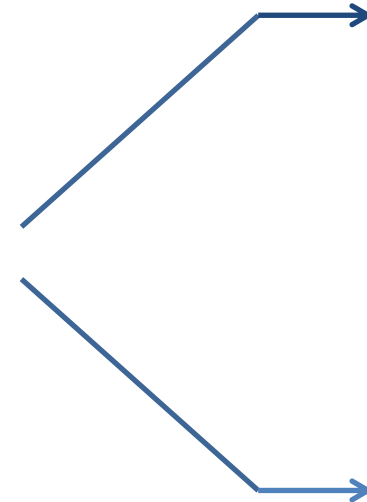
Underlying
Pathobiologic
Process



Resulting
Clinical State

Acute
Encephalopathy

Example: Hepatic Encephalopathy



Delirium
Subsyndromal Delirium

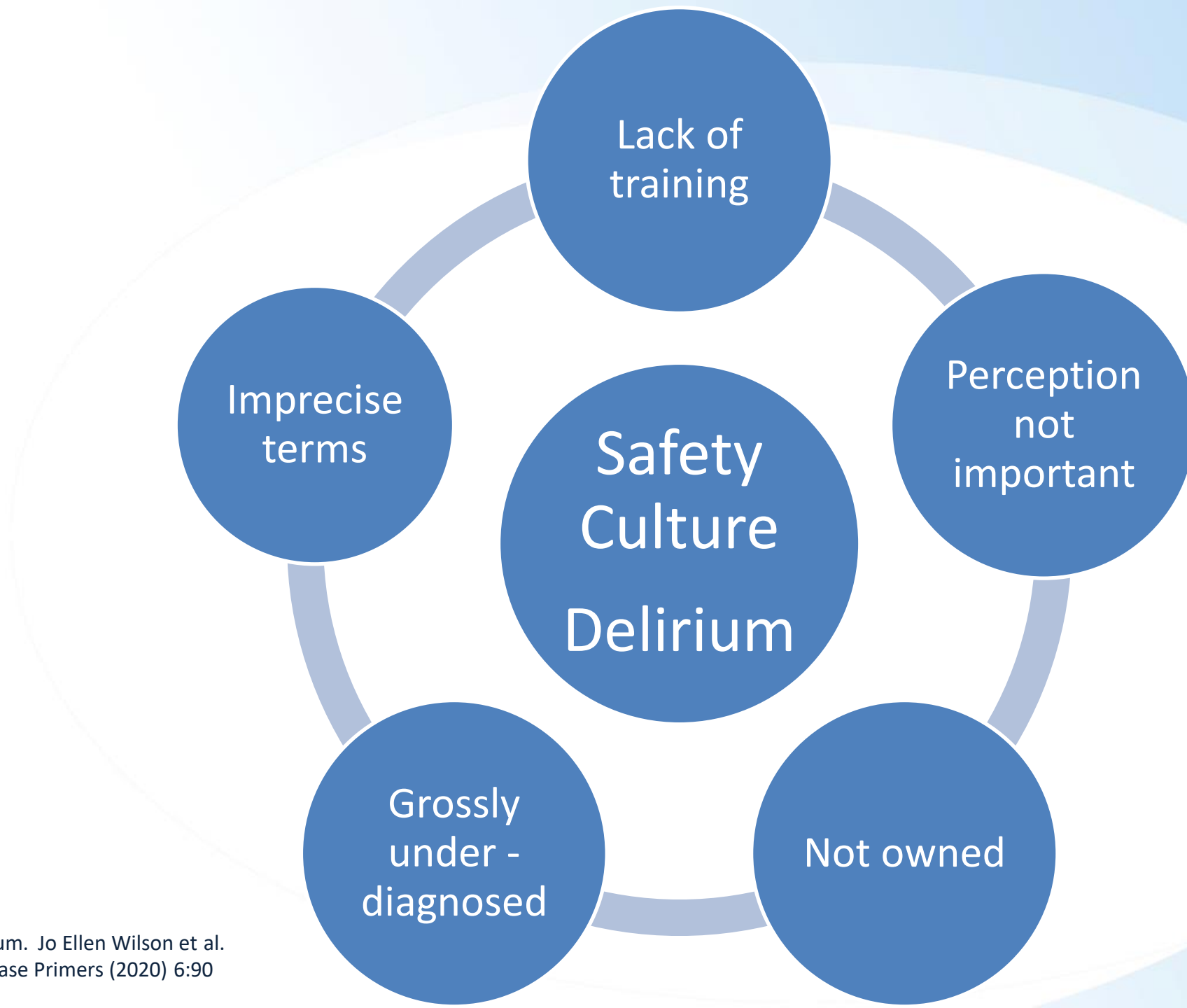
Combative
Very Agitated
Agitated
Restless
• Alert & Calm
Drowsy
Light Sedation
Moderate Sedation
-4 { Deep Sedation
-5 { Unarousable

Coma
severely depressed
responsiveness

What Matters

These Terms should not be Used

- Altered mental status
 - Not synonymous with delirium
- Acute confusional state
- Acute brain dysfunction
- Acute brain failure



This extraordinary gap is surprising given the high prevalence of delirium in older hospitalized patients



Holistic
Bundle

Additional Reference Slides
Will not be covered during presentation



Health Care Quality Improvement Continues

Updated Nomenclature: Ten Societies

- American Academy of Neurology (AAN)
- American Delirium Society (ADS)
- European Academy of Neurology (EAN)
- European Delirium Association (EDA)
- European Geriatric Medicine Society (EuGMS)
- European Society of Anaesthesiology (ESA)
- European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (ESICM)
- Neurocritical Care Society (NCS)
- Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM)
- Società Italiana di Anestesia Analgesia Rianimazione e Terapia Intensiva (SIAARTI)

Updated Nomenclature of Delirium and Acute Encephalopathy: Statement of Ten Societies.
Arjen J. C. Slooter et al. Intensive Care Med (2020) 46: 1020-1022

Ten Delirium Misconceptions

1. This patient is oriented to person, place, and time – they're not delirious.
2. Delirium always resolves.
3. We should expect frail, older patients to get confused at times, especially after receiving pain medication.
4. The goal of a delirium work-up is to find the main cause of delirium.
5. New-onset psychotic symptoms in late life likely represent primary mental illness.
6. Delirium in patients with dementia is less important because these patients are already confused at baseline.
7. Delirium treatment should include psychotropic medication.
8. The patient is delirious due to a psychiatric cause.
9. It is often best to let quiet patients rest.
10. Patients become delirious just from being in the ICU.

References

- Delirium. Jo Ellen Wilson et al. Nature Reviews | Disease Primers (2020) 6:90
- Responding to Ten Common Delirium Misconceptions with Best Evidence: An Educational Review for clinicians. Mark A Oldham et al. J. Neuropsychiatry Clin Neurosci 30:1 Winter 2018
- Updated Nomenclature of Delirium and Acute Encephalopathy: Statement of Ten Societies. Arjen J. C. Slooter et al. Intensive Care Med (2020) 46: 1020-1022
- NuDESC. The “Nu” Way for Nurses to Screen for Delirium. Heidenreich & Gresbach. American Nurse. May, 2018
- The AWOL tool: derivation and validation of a delirium prediction rule. Vanja C Douglas et.al. J Hosp Med . 2013 Sep; 8(9): 493-9.
- Institute for Healthcare Improvement. Age-Friendly Health Systems:Guide to Using the 4Ms in the Care of Older Adults. April 2019

DSM-5: Five Features of Delirium

1. Disturbance in attention (reduced ability to direct, focus, sustain, and shift attention) and awareness.
2. The disturbance develops over a short period of time (usually hours to days), represents a change from baseline, and tends to fluctuate during the course of the day.
3. An additional disturbance in cognition (memory deficit, disorientation, language, visuospatial ability, or perception).
4. The disturbances are not better explained by another preexisting, evolving, or established neurocognitive disorder, and do not occur in the context of a severely reduced level of arousal, such as coma.
5. There is evidence from the history, physical examination, or laboratory findings that the disturbance is caused by a medical condition, substance intoxication or withdrawal, or medication side effect.

FOUR Score

Eye response
4 = eyelids open or opened, tracking, or blinking to command
3 = eyelids open but not tracking
2 = eyelids closed but open to loud voice
1 = eyelids closed but open to pain
0 = eyelids remain closed with pain
Motor response
4 = thumbs-up, fist, or peace sign
3 = localizing to pain
2 = flexion response to pain
1 = extension response to pain
0 = no response to pain or generalized myoclonus status
Brainstem reflexes
4 = pupil and corneal reflexes present
3 = one pupil wide and fixed
2 = pupil or corneal reflexes absent
1 = pupil and corneal reflexes absent
0 = absent pupil, corneal, and cough reflex
Respiration
4 = not intubated, regular breathing pattern
3 = not intubated, Cheyne-Stokes breathing pattern
2 = not intubated, irregular breathing
1 = breathes above ventilator rate
0 = breathes at ventilator rate or apnea

Glasgow Coma Scale

Eye opening	
Spontaneous	4
Response to verbal command	3
Response to pain	2
No eye opening	1
Best verbal response	
Oriented	5
Confused	4
Inappropriate words	3
Incomprehensible sounds	2
No verbal response	1
Best motor response	
Obeys commands	6
Localizing response to pain	5
Withdrawal response to pain	4
Flexion to pain	3
Extension to pain	2
No motor response	1
Total	