

Delirium: Essential Systems for Quality Care

The following information suggests areas to focus on while evaluating facility processes for delirium management.

Systems to Review

Key Interventions to Reduce Delirium

Delirium Screening

- Establish policy for delirium screening for **ALL** new residents on admission to facility
 - Identify residents at high risk for delirium
 - Document resident baseline with input from family
 - Notify physician if symptoms of delirium are present or if resident is identified as high-risk for developing delirium
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Delirium Assessment

- Establish policy for conducting delirium assessment for **ALL** residents who screen positive for delirium symptoms or were identified as high-risk for delirium
 - Develop delirium assessment protocol for your facility that includes evaluation of underlying causes and precipitating factors of delirium, prior medical and psychosocial history, etc.
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High-Risk: Institute Delirium Prevention Care Plan

- Initiate Care Plan Interventions
 - Establish standard prevention protocols for residents identified at high risk
 - Document high risk status in assessment section of chart and MAR
 - Utilize methods to identify high risk residents: color-coded wrist bands, chart color coded, etc.
 - Conduct cognitive assessment each shift.
 - Train staff regarding normal aging process, delirium risk factors, predisposing & precipitating factors, signs and symptoms of delirium including hyperactive and hypoactive forms.
 - Educate family regarding delirium risk factors, signs & symptoms, prevention and supportive measures
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Diagnosis of Delirium: Initiate Care Plan

- Initiate Care Plan Interventions:
 - Tailor interventions to address specific to etiologic cause of delirium and resident symptoms, change if needed
 - Create multidisciplinary approach to care plan for delirium
 - Involve family in plan of care
 - Track duration and outcome(s) of delirium for affected residents.
 - Establish multi-disciplinary, delirium advisory team as a subcommittee of the QI committee for the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of the Delirium Prevention Plan and recommending improvements.
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