

## Confusion Assessment Method (CAM)

Shortened version

The diagnosis of delirium by CAM requires the presence of <b>BOTH</b> features <b>A</b> and <b>B</b>		
<b>C A M</b> Confusion Assessment Method	<b>A.</b> <b>Acute onset</b>	Is there evidence of an acute change in mental status from patient baseline?
	<b>and</b>	Does the abnormal behavior:
	<b>Fluctuating course</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ come and go?</li> <li>➢ fluctuate during the day?</li> <li>➢ increase/decrease in severity?</li> </ul>
	<b>B.</b> <b>Inattention</b>	Does the patient: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ have difficulty focusing attention?</li> <li>➢ become easily distracted?</li> <li>➢ have difficulty keeping track of what is said?</li> </ul>
	<b>AND the presence of EITHER feature C or D</b>	
<b>C.</b> <b>Disorganized thinking</b>	Is the patient's thinking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ disorganized</li> <li>➢ incoherent</li> </ul> For example does the patient have <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ rambling speech/irrelevant conversation?</li> <li>➢ unpredictable switching of subjects?</li> <li>➢ unclear or illogical flow of ideas?</li> </ul>	
<b>D.</b> <b>Altered level of consciousness</b>	Overall, what is the patient's level of consciousness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ alert (normal)</li> <li>➢ vigilant (hyper-alert)</li> <li>➢ lethargic (drowsy but easily roused)</li> <li>➢ stuporous (difficult to rouse)</li> <li>➢ comatose (unrousable)</li> </ul>	

*(Adapted with permission: Inouye, SK, et.al. (1990). Clarifying Confusion: The Confusion Assessment Method. A new method for detection of delirium. Ann Intern Med, 113: 941-8.)*