



Assessment tools to screen for suspected delirium in patients with COVID-19

Delirium involves an acute disturbance of brain function that presents with cognitive impairment and behavioural disturbances that can significantly impact upon the ability to receive care.

Delirium is expected to be common and pose a particular challenge in patients with COVID-19. The best treatment for delirium is to treat the underlying cause.

Assessment Tool 1: 4AT Rapid clinical test for delirium

1. Alertness

Normal (fully alert, not agitated)	0
Mild sleepiness (for <10 secs after waking but then normal)	0
Clearly abnormal	4

2. AMT4 (Age, DOB, name of hospital, current year)

No mistakes	0
1 mistake	1
≥ 2 mistakes/untestable	2

3. Attention (Months of year backwards)

Achieves ≥ 7 months correctly	0
Starts but scores < 7 months	1
Untestable (too unwell/drowsy/inattentive)	2

4. Acute change of Fluctuating symptoms

No	0
Yes	4

Total score

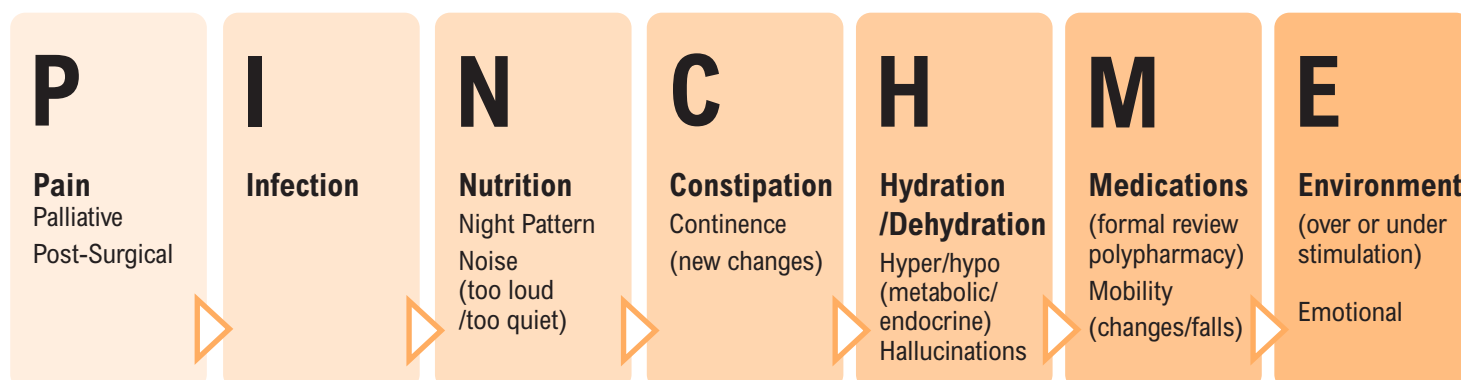
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≥4: Probable delirium +/- cognitive impairment

1-3: Possible cognitive impairment

0: Delirium unlikely

Assessment Tool 2: 'PINCH ME' assess potential cause of delirium



See WA Department of Health website for further information.

Acknowledgements:

- MacLulich, Ryan & Cash (2011). 4AT Assessment test for delirium & cognitive impairment. Available from <https://www.the4at.com/>
- Pryor & Clarke (2017) Nursing care for people with delirium superimposed on dementia. Nursing Older People.