

# Implementing a Delirium Assessment Tool to Increase Routine Assessment in Hospice Patients

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## PURPOSE

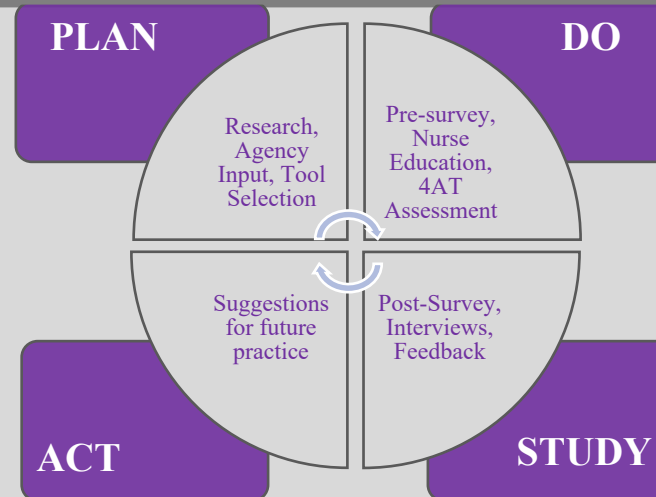
Implement a delirium assessment tool that is effective, practical, and sustainable with the following goals;

- Increase routine delirium assessment
- Increase hospice nurse delirium knowledge
- Increase family delirium education

## BACKGROUND

- Hospice focuses on palliation and support for terminal patients in the last six months of life.
- Delirium affects up to 88% of all Hospice patients in the final days to weeks of life. <sup>1</sup>
- Delirium adversely impacts patients, families, Hospice clinicians, and the healthcare system.
- International guidelines recommend routine delirium assessment to increase early identification and improve outcomes. <sup>7</sup>
- Most Hospice clinicians do not use a validated delirium assessment tool for routine assessment in clinical practice. <sup>11</sup>

## METHODS



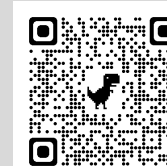
## RESULTS

- Routine assessments were completed 6% of the time.
- 90% of the patients assessed were positive for delirium.
- The completion rate for family education was 23%.
- Non-pharmacologic interventions alone were used 41% of the time with a positive score.
- Pharmacologic interventions alone were used 7% of the time with a positive delirium score.

## DISCUSSION

- Delirium is highly prevalent among hospice patients on the in-patient unit (IPU) nearing end of life.
- IPU nurses are essential in delirium assessment; however, most did not find value in using the 4AT for routine assessment.
- Compassionate family education is vital to delirium management, however most IPU nurses were reluctant to provide delirium education with families.
- Non-pharmacologic interventions are recommended for delirium management and were used most frequently.
- Future projects should focus on the following:
  - Comprehensive delirium education for nursing staff
  - Emphasize family education in delirium management
  - Involve nursing staff in the PDSA cycle
  - Provide ample staff support
  - Embed tool in EMR when possible

### References



### Tools

