

Confusion Assessment Method (CAM)

(Adapted from Inouye et al., 1990)

Patient's Name:

Date:

Instructions: Assess the following factors.

TICK IF PRESENT

1. Acute Onset and Fluctuating Course

Is there evidence of an acute change in mental status from the patient's baseline?

YES

NO

UNCERTAIN

NOT APPLICABLE

2. Inattention

A. Did the patient have difficulty focusing attention (for example, being easily distractible or having difficulty keeping track of what was being said)?

Not present at any time during interview

Present at some time during interview, but in mild form

Present at some time during interview, in marked form

Uncertain

B. Did this behavior fluctuate during the interview (that is, tend to come and go or increase and decrease in severity)?

YES

NO

UNCERTAIN

NOT APPLICABLE

C. Please describe this behavior.

3. Disorganized Thinking

Was the patient's thinking disorganized or incoherent, such as rambling or irrelevant conversation, unclear or illogical flow of ideas, or unpredictable, switching from subject to subject?

YES

NO

UNCERTAIN

NOT APPLICABLE

4. Altered Level of Consciousness

Overall, how would you rate this patient's level of consciousness?

Alert (normal)

Vigilant (hyperalert, overly sensitive to environmental stimuli, startled very easily)

Lethargic (drowsy, easily aroused)

Stupor (difficult to arouse)

Coma (unrousable)

Uncertain

Scoring - for a diagnosis of delirium by CAM, the patient must display:

1. Presence of acute onset and fluctuating discourse **AND** 2. Inattention
and **EITHER** 3. Disorganized thinking **OR** 4. Altered level of consciousness