

Confusion Assessment Method for the ICU (CAM-ICU)

Worksheet

Instructions: To evaluate for the presence of delirium in your patient, complete this clinical assessment every shift (8-12 hours).

CAM-ICU is a valid and reliable delirium assessment tool recommended by the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) in its 2013 Pain, Agitation, and Delirium (PAD) guidelines.

CAM-ICU	Criteria	✓ Present
FEATURE 1: Alteration/Fluctuation in Mental Status		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the patient's mental status different than his/her baseline? OR Has the patient had any fluctuation in mental status in the past 24 hours as evidenced by fluctuation on a sedation scale (eg, RASS, Glasgow Coma Scale [GCS]), or previous delirium assessment? 	If Yes for either question ►	<input type="checkbox"/>
FEATURE 2: Inattention 1: Alteration/Fluctuation in Mental Status		
<p>Letters Attention Test: Tell the patient <i>"I am going to read to you a series of 10 letters. Whenever you hear the letter 'A,' squeeze my hand."</i></p> <p>SAVE A H A A R T</p> <p>Count errors (each time patient fails to squeeze on the letter "A" and squeezes on a letter other than "A").</p>	If number of errors >2 ►	<input type="checkbox"/>
FEATURE 3: Altered Level of Consciousness (LOC)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present if the RASS score is anything <u>other than</u> Alert and Calm (zero) OR If SAS is anything <u>other than</u> Calm (4) 	If RASS ≠0 OR SAS ≠4 ►	<input type="checkbox"/>
FEATURE 4: Disorganized Thinking		
<p>Yes/No Questions: Ask the patient to respond:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Will a stone float on water? Are there fish in the sea? Does 1 pound weigh more than 2 pounds? Can you use a hammer to pound a nail? <p>Count errors (each time patient answers incorrectly).</p> <p>Commands: Ask the patient to follow your instructions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> "Hold up this many fingers." (Hold 2 fingers in front of the patient.) "Now do the same thing with the other hand." (Do not demonstrate the number of fingers this time.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If unable to move both arms, for part "b" of command ask patient to "Hold up one more finger." <p>Count errors if patient is unable to complete the entire command.</p>	If combined number of errors >1 ►	
<p>If Features 1 and 2 are both present <u>and</u> either Features 3 or 4 are present: CAM-ICU is positive, delirium is present</p>		<p>Delirium present <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Delirium absent <input type="checkbox"/></p>

Copyright © 2002, E. Wesley Ely, MD, MPH and Vanderbilt University, all rights reserved. Adapted with permission.