

Aim

Increase the percent of patients with delirium that have a documented diagnosis within 24 hours of presentation to the Delta Hospital Emergency Department to 80% by June 2018

Background

Delirium is poorly recognized and inadequately treated in medical settings. Delta Hospital is a 75 bed hospital in the Fraser Health Authority of British Columbia, Canada, where delirium has become more prevalent due to aging demographics. Literature reviews on delirium in the emergency department have shown that many elderly patients are often sent home or admitted with unrecognized delirium¹. The emergency room is the first contact with elderly patients who often have relatives/friends with them for collateral history. Although delirium is often multifactorial, the goal of **early detection** is early treatment of reversible causes. Delayed detection of delirium can lead to prolonged hospital stays and an increase in morbidities.

Changes

- Introduction of an **ER Delirium Screening Tool - INCLUSION** Criteria (age>75 and/or dementia)
- **EDUCATION** sessions on CAM and bCAM (see Tools section)
- Establish an effective **COMMUNICATION** system between RNs & MDs regarding CAM – verbal/note
- **“Delirium Protocol”** order which includes PPOs and green flagging chart

Results

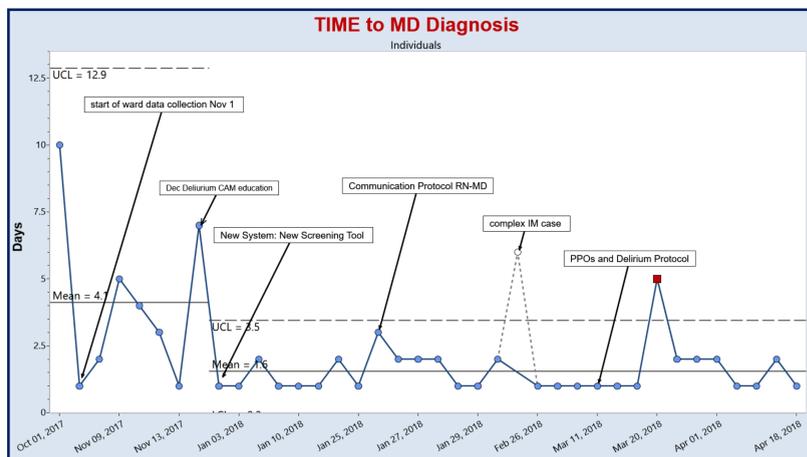


Figure 1. **OUTCOME:** Average time to MD DX decreased from 4.1 to 1.6 days, 61% improvement in Time to MD Dx.

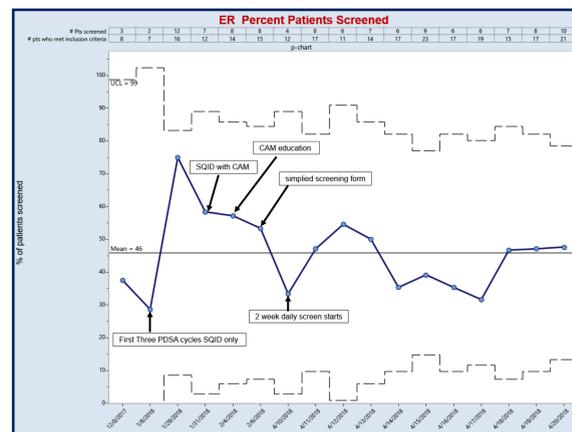


Figure 2. **PROCESS:** Average compliance with ER screening was 46%.

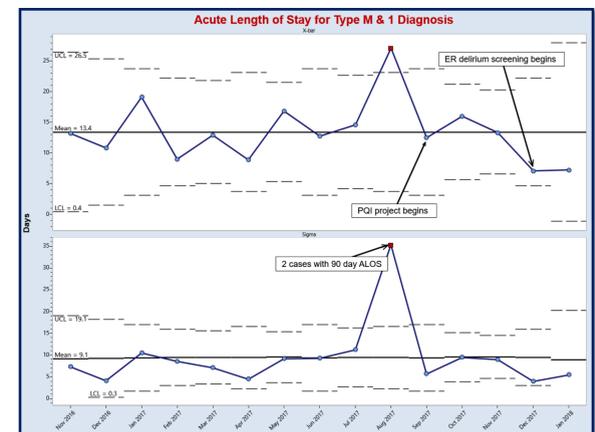


Figure 3. **Acute LOS for Delirium – Trend to decrease LOS but need more data.**

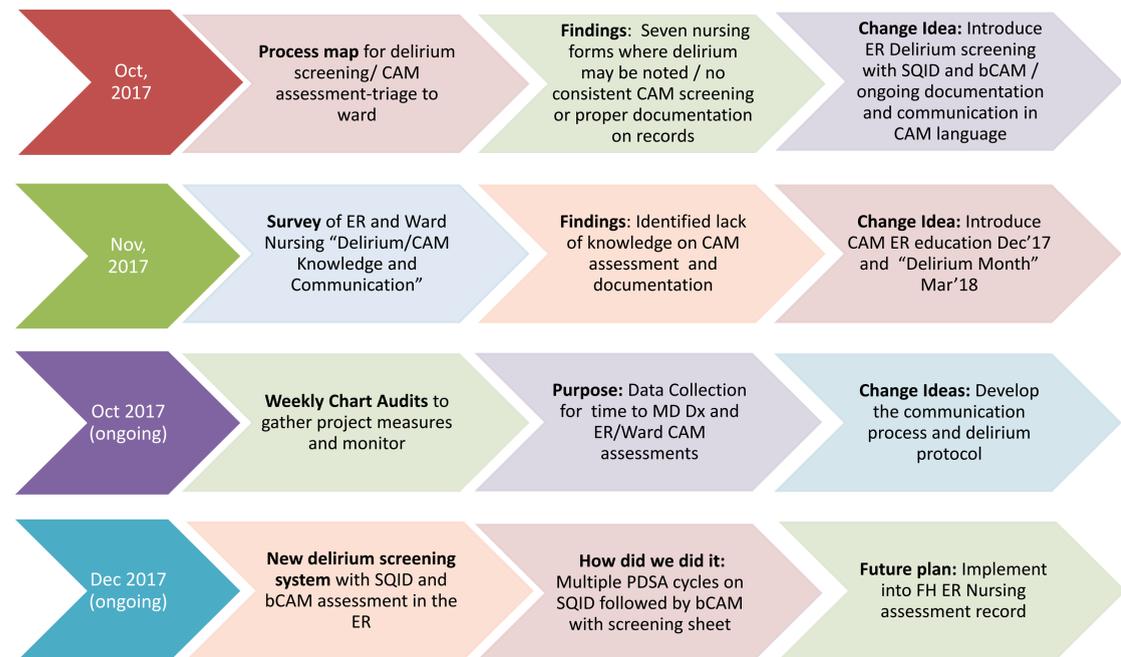
Team

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References

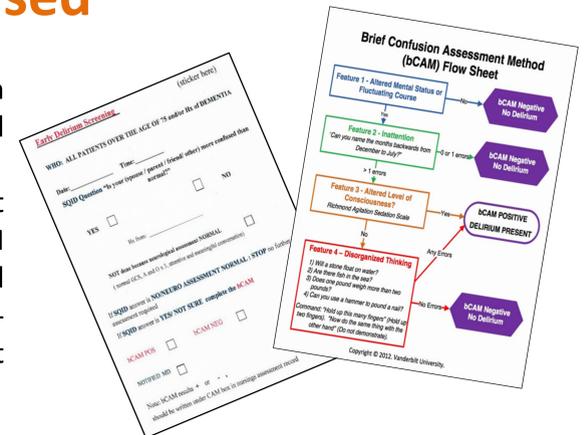
1. Emergency Department Delirium. (2018, May 15), Retrieved from: <http://eddelirium.org/>
2. Sands, M., Dantoc, B., Hartshorn, A., Ryan, C., & Lujic, S. (2010). Single question in delirium (SQID): Testing its efficacy against psychiatrist interview, the confusion assessment method and the memorial delirium assessment scale. *Palliative Medicine*, 24(6), 561-565. doi:10.1177/0269216310371556
3. Tamune, H., & Yasugi, D. (2017). How can we identify patients with delirium in the emergency department?: A review of available screening and diagnostic tools. *The American Journal of Emergency Medicine*, 35(9), 1332. doi:10.1016/j.ajem.2017.05.026

Project Design & Strategy



Tools Used

- Early delirium screening sheet
- **SQID²** question = Single Question In Delirium, “Is your relative/friend more confused than normal?”
- **Brief Confusional Assessment Method (bCAM)³**. The CAM screening tool is the gold standard for assessing delirium. (bCAM-Permission from Vanderbilt University)



Conclusions / Future Plans

- Since Nov 2017, **59% of pts presenting to the ER with delirium have been diagnosed within 24 hours** (taken from I-chart), the goal being **80%**
- ER delirium screening, CAM education and a communication likely contributed to improvement
- Currently in process of assisting with changes to emergency nursing assessment record to include delirium screening