

***DelTrain™ Adult ICU Delirium  
Virtual Reality Education***

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**INSTRUCTOR GUIDE**

**CLINICAL EDITION**

# Learning Objectives

Understand key features of Delirium

Understand consequences of Delirium

Recognize behaviors and warning signs of Delirium

Apply prevention, safety measures and treatment

Recognize opportunities for Sedation minimization in ICU

Implement early mobility



# What is Delirium?



Disturbance of consciousness occurs, with reduced ability to focus, sustain, or shift attention.



Change in cognition



Develops from hours to days and tends to fluctuate during throughout the day.



Caused by a direct physiologic consequence of a general medical condition

DSM IV Criteria

## Types of Delirium

1. Hypoactive: when the patient is not active or seems sleepy, tired, or depressed
2. Hyperactive: when the patient is restless or agitated
3. Mixed: when the patient fluctuates back and forth between being hypoactive and hyperactive.

## Differential Diagnosis

### Decline, Depression, Dementia

**Key point:** **Baseline cognitive status** is important in the assessment of decline associated with delirium, depression, and dementia

Harris M. Cognitive Issues: Decline, Delirium, Depression, Dementia. Nurs Clin North Am. 2017 Sep;52(3):363-374. doi: 10.1016/j.cnur.2017.05.001. PMID: 28779819.

# How Common is Delirium?

Delirium is common in acute  
hospitals

Up to 80% Medical ICU  
intubated patients

Ali, M., & Cascella, M. (2022). ICU Delirium. In StatPearls. StatPearls Publishing.



# Causes of Delirium

Medication/  
Sedation

Withdrawal

Illness/injury

Metabolic  
imbalances

Fever

Acute  
infection  
(Pneumonia, UTI)

Restraint/  
Immobility

Malnutrition

Dehydration

Sleep  
deprivation

Emotional  
distress

Pain

Surgery/  
Anesthesia

Sensory  
Deprivation (eye  
glasses, hearing  
aids)

Lack of Family

Noise

Staff  
Conversation

Confinement to  
a room



# Symptoms

Reduced awareness of the environment

Cognitive impairment

Behavior changes

Emotional disturbances



# Prevention

## **Environmental Factors:**

- Hearing aids
- Glasses
- Orientation aids
- Lighting
- Communication aids

## **Encourage:**

- Food and fluid intake
- Mobility
- Maintain sleep pattern
- Involve relatives and caregivers
- Reorientation
- Day and Night cycle orientation

## **Avoid:**

- Sedation
- Restraint
- Constipation
- Catheters
- Bed or Ward moves
- Arguing with the patient
- Sleep/sedation during the daytime hours



# Complications

## Physical

- Aspiration pneumonia
- Pressure ulcers
- Weakness
- Falls
- Malnutrition
- Mortality

## Treatment-related

- Unplanned extubation
- IV/line dislodgement
- Aggression toward staff

## Cognitive

- Hyperactivity
- Hypoactivity
- Sleep disturbance
- Persistent long-term cognitive impairment

# Long-term Effects

**Dementia**

**PICS**

**PTSD**

**Readmissions**

**Increased Caregiver needs**

# Management

**Bedside sitter**

**Safe restraint alternative/Refrain**

**Sedation avoidance**

**Sedation choice (short > long-acting)**

**Family/Friend/Staff interaction**

# The Richmond Agitation-Sedation Scale (RASS)

## Medscape

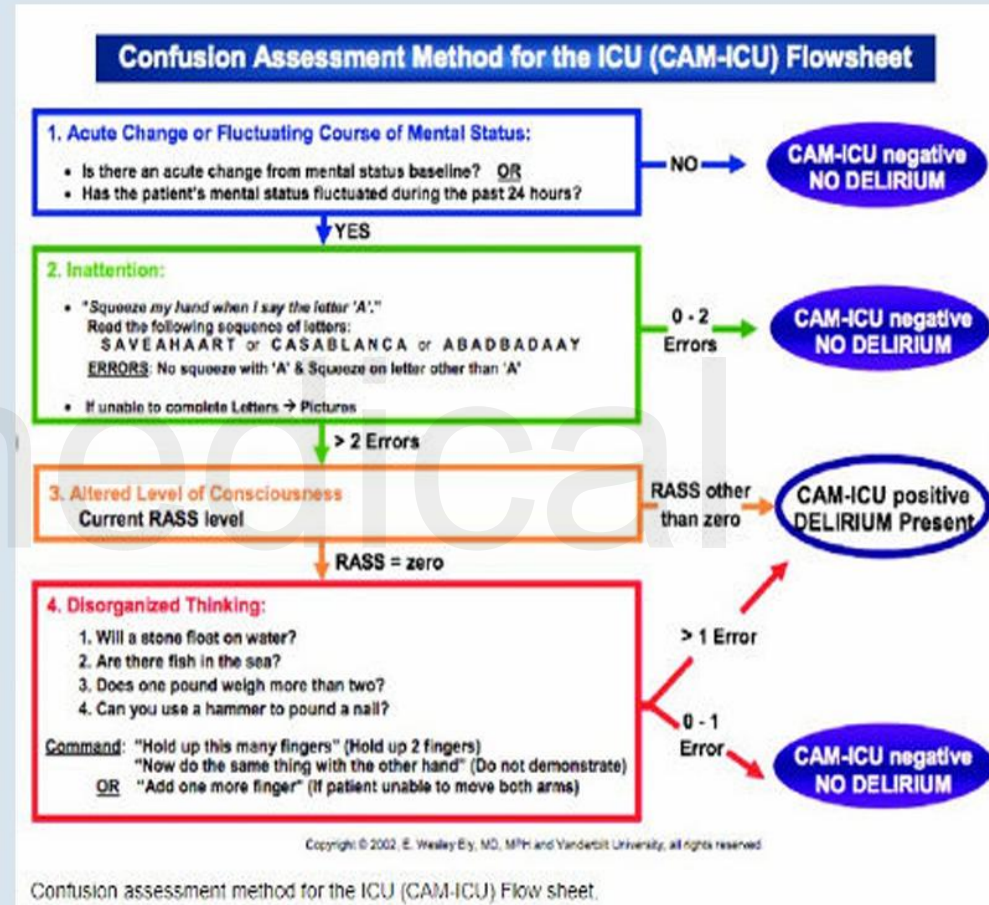
### Richmond Agitation and Sedation Scale (RASS)

+4	Combative	violent, immediate danger to staff
+3	Very Agitated	Pulls or removes tube(s) or catheter(s); aggressive
+2	Agitated	Frequent non-purposeful movement, fights ventilator
+1	Restless	Anxious, apprehensive but movements not aggressive or vigorous
0	Alert & calm	
-1	Drowsy	Not fully alert, but has sustained awakening to voice (eye opening & contact $\geq$ 10 sec)
-2	Light sedation	Briefly awakens to voice (eye opening & contact < 10 sec)
-3	Moderate sedation	Movement or eye-opening to voice (but no eye contact)
-4	Deep sedation	No response to voice, but movement or eye opening to physical stimulation
-5	Unarousable	No response to voice or physical stimulation

Source: Pain Manag Nurs © 2009 W.B. Saunders

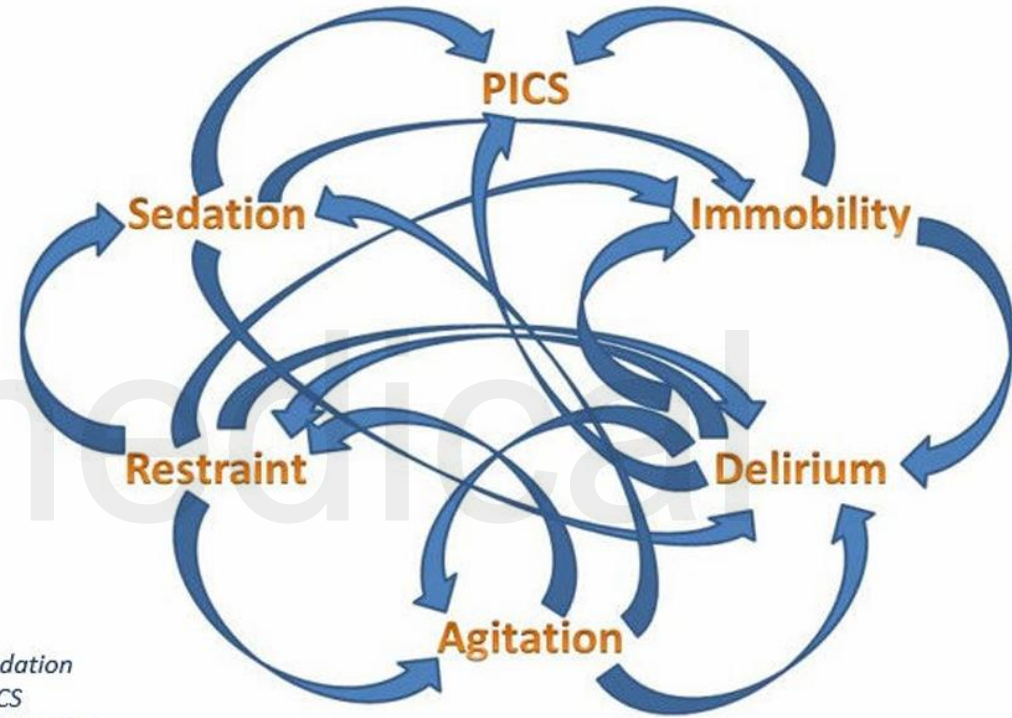
# The Confusion Assessment Method for the ICU (CAM-ICU)

A tool that can be used to determine if a patient is experiencing delirium





# Restraint



Sedation  
PICS  
Immobility  
Delirium  
Agitation  
Restraint

SPIDAR Web®

Marie Pavini MD FCCM FCCP

# Sedation

Intended to assist the patient with comfort and maintain safety

Manage physiologic parameters such as heart and respiratory rate

The catch: Sedation can worsen vital signs, worsen safety, and cause uncomfortable hallucinations



# PADIS GUIDELINES | SCCM 2018

Pain

Agitation/sedation

Delirium

Immobility

Sleep disturbance

HDmedical

## PADIS GUIDELINES | SCCM 2018

Traditional  
restraint  
consequences

- ↑ Medication use
- ↑ Risk for delirium
- ↑ Unplanned extubations
- ↑ Unintentional device removal  
(IV, ART Lines, ET tube)
- ↑ ICU length of stay

# ERAS

## Enhanced Recovery After Surgery:



The mission of the ERAS® Society is “to develop perioperative care and to improve recovery through research, education, audit and implementation of evidence-based practice.”

[History - ERAS® Society \(erassociety.org\)](http://erassociety.org)

Delirium contributes to delayed recovery. Utilizing techniques to reduce the risk of delirium such as restraint and sedation reduction have potential to enhance a patient’s recovery time.

# Refrain

The Exersides Refrain System allows patients to move while containing and deflecting vital tubes and lines. It negates the need for traditional restraints. The Refrain can be titrated to set desired range of motion using its optional bed straps including a resistance band strap.



# ICU Liberation Bundle (A-F)

Assess, prevent, and manage pain

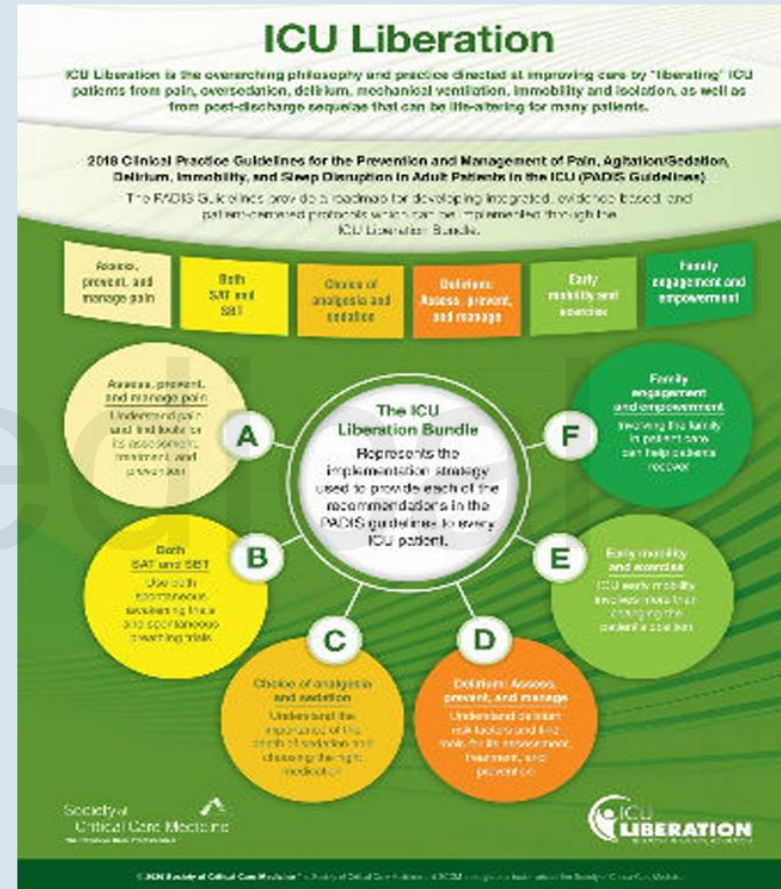
Both SAT and SBT

Choice of analgesia and sedation

Delirium: Assess, prevent, and manage

Early mobility and exercise

Family Engagement and Empowerment





**CAM** <https://www.cgakit.com/p-2-delirium>

bCAM (brief), pCAM (pediatric), FamCAM (informant-based), CAM-ICU (ICU)

Based on:

- A. Acute onset
- B. Inattention
- C. Disorganized thinking
- D. Altered level of consciousness

**CAM-ICU Worksheet**  
Confusion Assessment Method for the ICU

<b>1</b>	<b>Acute change or fluctuating course of mental status</b> Is the patient different than his/her baseline mental status? or Has the patient had any fluctuation in mental status in the past 24 hours as evidenced by fluctuation on a validated level of consciousness scale (i.e., RASS, SAS, or GCS) or previous delirium assessment?	<input type="checkbox"/> Check box if answer to either question is YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If no to both, stop Patient is not delirious
<b>2</b>	<b>Inattention</b> Letters Attention Test (See training manual for alternate pictures) Directions: Say to the patient: "I am going to read you a series of 10 letters. Whenever you hear the letter 'A,' indicate by squeezing my hand." Read letters from the following letter list in a normal tone 3 seconds apart. SAVEAHAART or CASABLANCA or ABADBADAAY Errors are counted when patient fails to squeeze on the letter 'A' and when the patient squeezes on any letter other than 'A.' <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>If the patient squeezes on all letters, consider all incorrect (i.e. 10 errors)</li><li>If the patient does not squeeze on any letters, consider all incorrect (i.e. 10 errors)</li></ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Check box if >2 errors <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If 0-2 errors, stop Patient is not delirious
<b>3</b>	<b>Altered level of consciousness</b> Present if the actual RASS score is anything other than alert and calm (zero)	<input type="checkbox"/> Check box if RASS anything other than zero
<b>4</b>	<b>Disorganized thinking</b> Yes/No Questions (See training manual for alternate set of questions) <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Will a stone float on water?</li><li>Are there fish in the sea?</li><li>Does one pound weigh more than two pounds?</li><li>Can you use a hammer to pound a nail?</li></ol> Errors are counted when the patient incorrectly answers a question. <b>Command</b> Say to patient: "Hold up this many fingers" (Hold 2 fingers in front of patient) "Now do the same thing with the other hand" (Do not repeat number of fingers) If the patient is unable to move both arms, for 2nd part of command, ask patient to "Add one more finger" An error is counted if patient is unable to complete the entire command.	<input type="checkbox"/> Check box if combined number of errors is >1
<input type="checkbox"/> Both Features 1 and 2 and either Feature 3 or 4 are present <b>Delirious</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> Otherwise <b>Not Delirious</b>

## RASS or SAS Sedation/Agitation Score

### Richmond Agitation Sedation Scale (RASS) \*

Score	Term	Description	
+4	Combative	Overtly combative, violent, immediate danger to staff	
+3	Very agitated	Pulls or removes tube(s) or catheter(s); aggressive	
+2	Agitated	Frequent non-purposeful movement, fights ventilator	
+1	Restless	Anxious but movements not aggressive vigorous	
0	Alert and calm		
-1	Drowsy	Not fully alert, but has sustained awakening (eye-opening/eye contact) to <i>voice</i> ( $\geq 10$ seconds)	} Verbal Stimulation
-2	Light sedation	Briefly awakens with eye contact to <i>voice</i> ( $< 10$ seconds)	
-3	Moderate sedation	Movement or eye opening to <i>voice</i> (but no eye contact)	} Physical Stimulation
-4	Deep sedation	No response to voice, but movement or eye opening to <i>physical</i> stimulation	
-5	Unarousable	No response to <i>voice</i> or <i>physical</i> stimulation	

#### Procedure for RASS Assessment

1. Observe patient
  - a. Patient is alert, restless, or agitated. (score 0 to +4)
2. If not alert, state patient's name and *say* to open eyes and look at speaker.
  - b. Patient awakens with sustained eye opening and eye contact. (score -1)
  - c. Patient awakens with eye opening and eye contact, but not sustained. (score -2)
  - d. Patient has any movement in response to voice but no eye contact. (score -3)
3. When no response to verbal stimulation, physically stimulate patient by shaking shoulder and/or rubbing sternum.
  - e. Patient has any movement to physical stimulation. (score -4)
  - f. Patient has no response to any stimulation. (score -5)

\* Sessler CN, Gosnell M, Grap MJ, Brophy GT, O'Neal PV, Keane KA et al. The Richmond Agitation-Sedation Scale: validity and reliability in adult intensive care patients. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med* 2002; 166:1338-1344.

° Ely EW, Traman B, Shintani A, Thomason JWW, Wheeler AP, Gordon S et al. Monitoring sedation status over time in ICU patients: the reliability and validity of the Richmond Agitation Sedation Scale (RASS). *JAMA* 2003; 289:2983-2991.