

CAM-short

Confusion Assessment Method - short

Purpose : Test for delirium

Admin time : 5 min

User Friendly : High

Administered by : Healthcare professional

Content : The CAM-short version is a quicker assessment, which eliminates the last 5 components and only includes the first 4 from the original algorithm. The short version is what is most commonly used in clinical practice.

Author : Inouye SK, 1996

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<https://www.cgakit.com/p-2-cam>

Confusion Assessment Method (CAM)

Shortened Version Worksheet

Name: _____ Date of birth: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

I. ACUTE ONSET AND FLUCTUATING COURSE

BOX 1

a) Is there evidence of an acute change in mental status from the patient's baseline? ☐ No

☐ Yes

b) Did the (abnormal) behaviour fluctuate during the day, that is tend to come and go or increase and decrease in severity? ☐ No

☐ Yes

II. INATTENTION

Did the patient have difficulty focusing attention, for example, being easily distractible or having difficulty keeping track of what was being said? ☐ No

☐ Yes

III. DISORGANISED THINKING

BOX 2

Was the patient's thinking disorganised or incoherent, such as rambling or irrelevant conversation, unclear or illogical flow of ideas, or unpredictable switching from subject to subject? ☐ No

☐ Yes

IV. ALTERED LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS

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

Alert (normal) ☐

BOX 3

Vigilant (hyperalert) ☐

Lethargic (drowsy, easily aroused) ☐

Stupor (difficult to arouse) ☐

Coma (unarousable) ☐

Do any checks appear in BOX 3? ☐ No

☐ Yes

If all items in BOX 1 are ticked and at least one item in BOX 2 is ticked a diagnosis of delirium is suggested.

Adapted with permission from: Inouye SK, vanDyck CH, Alessi CA, Balkin S, Siegel AP, Horwitz RI. Clarifying confusion: The Confusion Assessment Method. A new method for detection of delirium. Ann Intern Med. 1990; 113: 941-948. Confusion Assessment Method: Training Manual and Coding Guide, Copyright 2003, Sharon K. Inouye, M.D. MPH.