

Pediatric CAM-ICU (pCAM-ICU): DELIRIUM = Presence of FEATURES 1 + 2 + either 3 or 4

FEATURE 1: Acute Change or Fluctuating Course of Mental Status

1. Is there an acute change from mental status baseline? (Y or N)
 2. Has the patient's mental status fluctuated during the past 24 hours? (Y or N)
- If "YES" to EITHER question then Feature 1 is PRESENT → move on to **FEATURE 2**



**STOP
DELIRIUM
ABSENT**

FEATURE 2: Inattention

- Say: "Squeeze my hand when I say 'A'. Let's practice: A, B. Squeeze only on A."
 Read this letter sequence: **A B A D B A D A A Y**
- Did the patient make 3 or MORE ERRORS? (Error = No squeeze with 'A' or Squeeze with other letters)
- If "YES" then Feature 2 is PRESENT → move on to **FEATURE 3**



FEATURE 3: Altered Level of Consciousness (LOC)

- Does the patient currently have an altered LOC? (i.e. not alert and calm)
- If "YES" then **STOP → DELIRIUM PRESENT**
- If "NO" then Feature 3 is NOT present → move on to **FEATURE 4**



**DELIRIUM
PRESENT**

FEATURE 4: Disorganized Thinking

- Say: "I am going to ask you some questions." (Tell patient to answer yes/no by voice, head nod, etc.)
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| <p>Questions: (1 point each)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is sugar sweet? 2. Is ice cream hot? 3. Do birds fly? 4. Is an ant bigger than an elephant? | <p>Alternate questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is a rock hard? - Do rabbits fly? - Is ice cream cold? - Is a giraffe smaller than a mouse? |
|--|--|
- Command: (1 point) 5. Two-step command: Say, "Hold up this many fingers." Demonstrate by holding up 2 fingers. Then say, "Now do that with the other hand." Do NOT demonstrate this part of the command.
- Did the patient make 2 or MORE ERRORS? (Error = Answer question incorrectly, doesn't follow command, etc.)
- If "YES" then → **DELIRIUM PRESENT**



**DELIRIUM
ABSENT**