



The RCN represents nurses and nursing, promotes excellence in practice and shapes health policies

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What is delirium?

How do you recognise delirium?

What can you do if you think your patient has delirium?

Delirium can be difficult to recognise and sometimes the

Any person can get delirium but it is more common when a person is older, has a cognitive or sensory impairment, is very ill, or requires complex treatments.

Of those aged 80 and older living at home, one in 10 people could have delirium at any time. In care home residents, six in 10 could have delirium at any time.

Nurses and nursing assistants working in all settings are well placed to recognise delirium in the patients they care for. It is important to remember that delirium is common in people with dementia - if you see sudden changes in a person living with dementia don't discount delirium.

AROUSAL (AWAKENESS)	THINKING	PERCEPTION

FUNCTION	BEHAVIOUR

