St Michael’s Delirium Program Resources

OVERVIEW:
A delirium program was piloted on a medical-surgical inpatient unit at St Michael’s, an academic hospital in the Toronto Central LHIN. The baseline incidence of delirium, before the program was implemented, was 28 percent. When the Confusion Assessment Method (CAM) was put in place as part of the nurses’ electronic documentation, the incidence peaked at 39 percent due to increased awareness and detection of delirium on the unit. It was at this time that the “HANDOVER” prevention tool was implemented, which decreased the incidence of delirium to 18 percent. With lessons learned, corporate-wide roll-out of this protocol occurred. The team at St Michael’s have kindly offered to share key components of their delirium program.

AUTHORS AND CONTACT INFORMATION:
The delirium program and its resources were developed by an inter-professional team at St Michael’s Hospital:
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STRUCTURE OF THE RESOURCE:
The shared resources consist of a “HANDOVER” delirium prevention algorithm, a delirium management order set, and an education pamphlet for patients and families.

BASE OF EVIDENCE/PSYCHOMETRIC PROPERTIES:
The resources were developed with careful consideration of evidence-informed best practice in delirium.

TARGET POPULATION AND SETTING:
Delirium screening, prevention, and management interventions are relevant to all patients admitted to acute care hospital.

INTENDED USER(S):
These resources can be used by clinical educators, knowledge-to-practice coaches, front-line clinical staff, and patients and families as reference materials where appropriate.

NOTES ON USING THE RESOURCES:
As with all clinical practice resources, recommendations are provided for information purposes only and the most appropriate care for each individual patient must be determined by the health care team or professional based on available information and clinical rationale

WHERE TO GET THE RESOURCES:
The following resources may be shared. Please acknowledge St Michael’s as the source of these materials:
   “HANDOVER” – Suggested Strategies to Prevent Delirium
   Delirium Management – Pre-printed Order Set
   Learn About Delirium Pamphlet – Information for Patients, Families and Communities

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