The CONFUSION ASSESSMENT METHOD INSTRUMENT

1. Acute onset: Is there evidence of an acute change in mental status from the patient’s baseline? Yes (expected), No (normal), Maybe (unclear, possibly normal or abnormal, needs further investigation)

2. Inattention: Did the patient have difficulty focusing attention, for example, by easily being distracted, or having difficulty keeping track of what was being said? Yes (abnormal), No (normal)

3. Disorganized thinking: Is the patient’s thinking disorganized or incoherent, such as rambling or irrelevant conversation, unclear or illogical flow of ideas, or unpredictable switching from subject to subject? Yes (abnormal), No (normal)

4. Altered Level of consciousness: Overall, how would you rate this patient’s level of consciousness? alert (normal), hyperalert (very alert, wakeful, responsive to environmental stimuli, started very easily), lethargic (normal, easily aroused), stupor (difficult to arouse, conscious, but disoriented), or comatose (unarousable)? Yes (abnormal), No (normal), Maybe (unclear, possibly normal or abnormal, needs further investigation)

The diagnosis of delirium by CAM requires the presence of features 1 and 2 and either 3 or 4.