Delirium, Dementia, and Depression in Older Adults: Assessment and Care

Flow Chart For Delirium, Dementia, and Depression

At Risk of Delirium
- Identify signs, symptoms, and risk factors of delirium, dementia, and depression (R 1.2)
- Differentiate between indications of delirium, dementia, and depression (R 1.2, 2.1, 6.1)

Possible Depression
- Assess for depression when risk factors or signs are present (R 10.1)

Possible Dementia
- Assess for dementia using validated tools & collaborative assessments (R 6.1)
- Identify signs, symptoms, and risk factors of delirium, dementia, and depression (R 6.1)

Positive for delirium: Possible delirium and suicidal ideation require urgent attention (R 1.3)
- Refer to appropriate clinician(s), team, or service for further assessment and diagnosis (R 1.3, 6.1b)
- Assess at-risk older adults for delirium at least daily (R 4.2)
- Implement prevention plan (R 4.1)
- Develop a tailored, non-pharmacological delirium prevention plan (R 3.1)

Negative for delirium:
- Continue preventative measures (R 4.1)
- Develop an individualized plan of care to address BPSD and personal care needs (R 7.1)
- Monitor for and manage pain (R 8.2)
- Communicate effectively (R 8.3)
- Implement multicomponent interventions to manage delirium (R 4.5)
- Educate the person and his/her family (R 4.6)
- Explore underlying causes of BPSD (R 6.3)
- Assess for pain (R 6.4)
- Assess impact of dementia on the person and his/her family (R 6.2)

At Risk of Depression
- Assess for depression when risk factors or signs are present (R 10.1)
- Assess for suicidal ideation (R 10.2)

At Risk of Dementia
- Assess for dementia using validated tools & collaborative assessments (R 6.1)
- Assess impact of dementia on the person and his/her family (R 6.2)

Possible Depression
- Assess for depression when risk factors or signs are present (R 10.1)
- Assess for suicidal ideation (R 10.2)

Possible Dementia
- Assess for dementia using validated tools & collaborative assessments (R 6.1)
- Assess impact of dementia on the person and his/her family (R 6.2)

Documentation & communication (R 1.3); appropriate medication use (R 1.5); restraint as a last resort (R 1.6)

The therapeutic relationship, cultural sensitivity, person- and family-centred care (R 1.1); engage appropriate substitute decision-maker, as needed (R 1.4b)