

Table 1: Changes That May Indicate Delirium

TYPE OF CHANGE	EXAMPLES
Cognitive function	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>decreased concentration</i> ■ <i>slow responses</i> ■ memory impairment ■ disorganized thinking ■ disorientation ■ reduced level of consciousness ■ shifting attention
Perception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ visual or auditory hallucinations
Physical function	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>reduced mobility</i> ■ <i>reduced movement*</i> ■ motor restlessness ■ agitation ■ <i>changes in appetite*</i> ■ sleep disturbance
Social behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ lack of cooperation with reasonable requests ■ <i>withdrawal</i> ■ alterations in communication, mood, and/or attitude

Note: Changes indicative of hypoactive delirium are italicized. Hypoactive delirium is particularly important because it is common but often overlooked (NICE, 2010). Examples added by the expert panel are indicated with an asterisk (*).

Source: Adapted from NICE, 2010, p. 11.