Other information

- Delirium can last from a couple of hours to several weeks
- Most people will recover but, people living with dementia may not be as well
- Delirium is frightening for the patient and their carers. People may have some memory of their symptoms

Who to contact for information

The mental health team called

Other useful contacts

Carers Contact Centre

Telford 01952 240209

Shropshire Carers

Community Council Shrewsbury 01743 360641

Alzheimer's Society

Telford 01952 250392

Shropshire 01743 341800

PALS

Patient Advise and Liaison Service

Who will act on your behalf when handling patient and family concerns

PALS is a confidential service

Royal Shrewsbury Hospital,

Tel: 01743 261691

Princess Royal Hospital,

Tel: 01952 282888

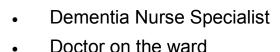


Delirium

A guide for patients and carers

What is Delirium

Delirium is a change in a person's Physical condition that makes people confused



The nurse in charge

RAID



What are the causes of Delirium?

- Infections like chest and urine infections (UTI)
- Dehydration
- Some medications
- Alcohol or drug withdrawal
- Uncontrolled pain
- Surgery and anaesthetics
- Disease diseases lung or heart disease or a stroke

Often there is more than one cause

What happens in Delirium?

- The patient becomes confused
- They can be sleepy
- They can be agitated and aggressive
- They may experience hallucinations (seeing or hearing things which aren't there)
- They may show changed thinking such as paranoia
- They may not be able to do simple daily activities such as washing or eating
- All these symptoms can vary during the day and or the night

What can we do to help?

- Find the cause and treat it
- We try to ensure the patient can see and hear (using their glasses and hearing aids)
- We need to help the patient eat and drink enough
- Sedative drugs are used only when necessary