



FACT SHEET ON DELIRIUM IN THE ELDERLY

- 1. Delirium is temporary confusion or intellectual impairment from medical problems.**
- 2. Delirium is reversible and common in the elderly.**
- 3. Delirium is frequently caused by medications such as sleeping and nerve pills, or over-the-counter medications (e.g., antihistamines or cold preparations).**
- 4. Delirium is very common in brain damaged individuals like Alzheimer or stroke patients.**
- 5. Major problems like strokes, pneumonia or major surgery can cause delirium.**
- 6. Minor problems like fecal impaction and bladder infection can cause delirium.**
- 7. Delirious patients can become hostile or agitated.**
- 8. Delirious patients often develop psychiatric symptoms.**
- 9. Delirium is easy to treat - simply fix the medical problem or stop the drug. Delirious patients get better when appropriately treated.**
- 10. Delirious patients frequently do not get better because the delirium is unrecognized.**
- 11. Patients who remain delirious have a higher risk for serious complications.**

For additional information or inquiries, call
1-800-457-5679.

