



Delirium is a serious, life threatening condition that develops rapidly over days or hours. If an older person develops delirium they are much more likely to:

- Experience a high level of distress
- Have an increased risk of developing dementia or a rapid and irreversible decline in dementia
- Continue to experience the symptoms of delirium for up to 6 months
- Be admitted to hospital
- Have an increased risk of mortality



It is important to know that there are different types of delirium

Hyperactive Delirium

- Restlessness
- Agitation
- Poor sleep
- Hallucinations
- Easily startled
- Delusions
- Aggression

Mixed Delirium

Can fluctuate between hypoactive and hyperactive delirium during the course of the day or day by day.

Hypoactive Delirium

- Lethargy
- Withdrawn
- Poor diet intake
- Slower speech
- Not interested in usual things they enjoy
- Seems depressed

When there are changes in the mental state of a resident
THINK DELIRIUM!