DELIRIUM PREVENTION and MANAGEMENT FLOWCHART

Think Main Risk Factors
• over 70 yrs of age
• pre-existing cognitive impairment
• wears glasses or hearing aid
• severe illness
• polypharmacy

1. Conduct baseline cognitive function assessment. Does the person have cognitive impairment?

2. Determine any change in cognitive function. Has there been a recent change in cognitive function?

3. Assess for delirium using the CAM. Is the CAM score +ve?

4. ? Prodromal/subdromal delirium. Does the patient/client have any symptoms suggestive of delirium?

- Respond to any sudden change in cognitive function by repeating STEP 3.

Develop care plan, including:
- Delirium prevention strategies
- Screening at regular intervals for change in cognitive function

Differential diagnosis
- Dementia
- Depression
- Other neurological
- Other psychiatric

Develop and implement care plan
- identify and address cause(s)
- manage symptoms
- provide supportive care
- prevent complications
- monitor resolution
- manage modifiable risk factors
- educate the patient and significant others

Develop care plan including:
- monitoring cognitive function for change
- managing symptoms
- implementation of prevention strategies