MINI-COG

To assess a person for delirium using the Confusion Assessment Method (CAM) it is necessary to include at least a brief cognitive assessment as part of the interview process. The Mini-Cog is a simple effective three-word test which only takes 2 – 3 minutes to administer. This test is able to be used on people from different ethic and educational backgrounds. The results of this test are indicated as either normal or abnormal cognition.

Administration:

1. Get the patients attention, then say: "I am going to say three words that I want you to remember now and later. The words are
          BANANA   SUNRISE   CHAIR
Please say them for me now" (Give the patient 3 tries to repeat the words. If unable after 3 tries, go to the next item.)

2. SAY ALL THE FOLLOWING PHASES IN ORDER INDICATED. "Please draw a clock in the space below. Start by drawing a large circle." (when this is done, say) "Put all the numbers in the circle." (when done say) "Now set the hands to show 11:10 (10 past 11)." If subject has not finished clock drawing in 3 minutes, discontinue and ask for recall items.

3. Say: "What were the 3 words I asked you to remember?"

Scoring:

_____ _____ _____ (score 1 point for each) 3-item   Recall Score ☐

Score the clock (see link for instructions)
          Normal clock   2 points
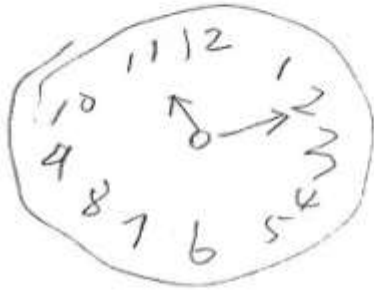   Abnormal clock   0 points   Clock Score ☐

Total Score = 3-item recall plus clock score ☐   **0, 1, 2 possible impairment;**   **3, 4, or 5 suggests no impairment**

Borson, S., Scanlan, J., Brush, M., Vitaliano, R. & Dokmak, A. (2000) *The Mini-Cog: A cognitive 'vital signs' measure for dementia screening in multi-lingual elderly*. International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry 15(11), 1021-1027

CLOCK SCORING

NORMAL CLOCK

A NORMAL CLOCK HAS ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:
All numbers 1-12, each only once, are present in the correct order and direction (clockwise).
Two hands are present, one pointing to 11 and one pointing to 2.

ANY CLOCK MISSING ANY OF THESE ELEMENTS IS SCORED ABNORMAL. REFUSAL TO DRAW A CLOCK IS SCORED ABNORMAL.

SOME EXAMPLES OF ABNORMAL CLOCKS (THERE ARE MANY OTHER KINDS)

Abnormal Hands

Missing Number