

THE ROLE OF THE DELIRIUM CHAMPION

CLINICAL DELIRIUM CHAMPION:





A delirium champion is a health care provider (typically MD, RN, or SW) who has an interest in improving care for older adults who come to the emergency department. Delirium champions are supported by senior management and should be proactive clinician leaders with credibility among staff.

The delirium champion will spearhead education efforts and utilization of delirium assessment, recognition, and prevention tools in the emergency department.








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Delirium Champions have:

-  A commitment to quality care for older adults
-  Leadership experience
-  Excellent interpersonal skills
-  The ability to influence and engage others in a course of action

Delirium Champions Tasks:

-  Educational outreach to team members
-  Remind staff to complete identified delirium protocols and ensure adherence
-  Review charts and provide feedback regarding delirium in the ED
-  Lead meetings or interdisciplinary rounds regarding delirium
-  Offer tools for success including staff recognition and incentives

It is recommended that each ED has multiple delirium champions, ideally at least one on each shift in the ED in order to fully promote your delirium protocol.



GAINING ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:

The Delirium Champion should also gain administrative support from the ED and hospital leadership. Administrative leaders have a unique, behind-the-scenes role in establishing and supporting a delirium program in the ED. Administrators will lay the groundwork for staff empowerment and can ensure that the different clinical teams gel in this effort. We recommend approaching a senior member of the hospital management team with decision-making capacity. This individual can help support implementation efforts and provide resources to start and sustain your program.

You will need to convince your administrative leadership that a delirium protocol in the ED is an essential paradigm shift which may require providing additional education or hiring staff. Administrative leaders can help advocate for the change within the hospital decision-making hierarchy and help transmit the importance of the program to other administrative leaders.