

Documentation Tip of the Week: Dementia

It is important when documenting dementia to state whether the mental status is consistent with the patient’s baseline or if it is an acute condition:

- **Acute Confusion or Acute Delirium on Chronic Dementia**
- **Dementia with Behavioral Disturbance**
- **Sundowning linked with Dementia**
 - Are there changes in the patient’s mental status at night?
- **Metabolic Encephalopathy**
 - Are the changes in mental status worsened by infection?

NO SOI	LOW SOI	HIGH SOI
Altered Mental Status	Acute delirium Sundowning	Metabolic or Toxic Encephalopathy

SOI= Severity of Illness



Remember - Hospital documentation can include “possible, probable, likely or suspected” diagnoses

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