**CARE PATH**

**Acute Mental Status Change**

### New Mental Status Change Noted
- New symptoms or signs of increased confusion
  (e.g. disorientation, change in speech)
- Decreased level of consciousness
- Inability to perform usual activities (due to mental status change)
- New or worsened physical and/or verbal agitation*
- New or worsened delusions or hallucinations*

### Take Vital Signs
- Temperature
- BP, pulse, apical HR (if pulse irregular)
- Respirations
- Oxygen saturation
- Finger stick glucose (diabetics)

### Vital Sign Criteria (any met?)
- Temp > 100.5°F
- Apical heart rate > 100 or < 50
- Respiratory rate > 28/min or < 10/min
- BP < 90 or > 200 systolic
- Oxygen saturation < 90%
- Finger stick glucose < 70 or > 300

### Further Nursing Evaluation
- Mental Status
- Functional Status
- Cardiovascular
- Respiratory
- Gastrointestinal/abdomen
- Genitourinary
- Skin

### Evaluate Symptoms and Signs**
- Not eating or drinking
- Acute decline in ADL abilities
- New cough, abnormal lung sounds
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- Abdominal distension or tenderness
- New or worsened incontinence, pain with urination, blood in urine
- New skin condition (e.g. rash, redness suggesting cellulitis, signs of infection around existing wound/pressure ulcer)

### Evaluate Results
- WBC > 14,000 or neutrophils > 90%
- Infiltrate or pneumonia on chest X-ray
- Urine results suggest infection and symptoms or signs present

### Consider Orders for:
- Portable chest X-ray
- Urinalysis and C&S if indicated
- Blood work (Complete Blood Count, Basic Metabolic Panel)

### Manage in Facility
- Monitor vital signs, fluid intake/urine output every 4-8 hrs for 24-72 hrs
- If on diuretic, consider holding
- Offer frequent small fluids (2-4 oz q 2h)
- If on tube feeding, give more water with flushes
- Consider IV or subcutaneous fluids
- Update advance care plan and directives if appropriate

### Monitor Response
- Vital signs criteria met
- Worsening condition

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* Refer also to INTERACT Change in Behavior Care Path
** Refer also to the other INTERACT Care Paths as indicated by symptoms and signs

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