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# Do you see what I see? Feasibility of Delirium Screening by Pediatric Therapists

Margaret Scholl, PT, L. David Wittkower, PHD, Satori Gatling SLP, Chani Traube MD

## BACKGROUND

- ❖ Delirium is frequently undetected or misdiagnosed.
- ❖ The prevalence of delirium across pediatric units in acute care hospitals has not been measured.
- ❖ Pediatric therapists (physical (PT), occupational (OT), and speech (ST) therapists) may be a valuable resource in detecting delirium.

## OBJECTIVES

- ❖ Establish the feasibility of delirium screening by therapy during routine assessments.
- ❖ Identify the rate of positive delirium screens in patients across the hospital setting.

## METHODOLOGY

- ❖ An interdisciplinary team of an ICU MD, ST and PT designed a 15-minute training on the Cornell Assessment for Pediatric Delirium (CAPD).
- ❖ All patients seen by rehab therapy were assessed with the CAPD during routine evaluations.
- ❖ Therapists recorded their responses on a hard copy as well as in EPIC.
- ❖ After 3 weeks, forms were modified to include developmental delay information, and to improve usability of the initial form.
- ❖ 1305 delirium screens on 797 unique subjects were completed in a 15-week period.

## RESULTS

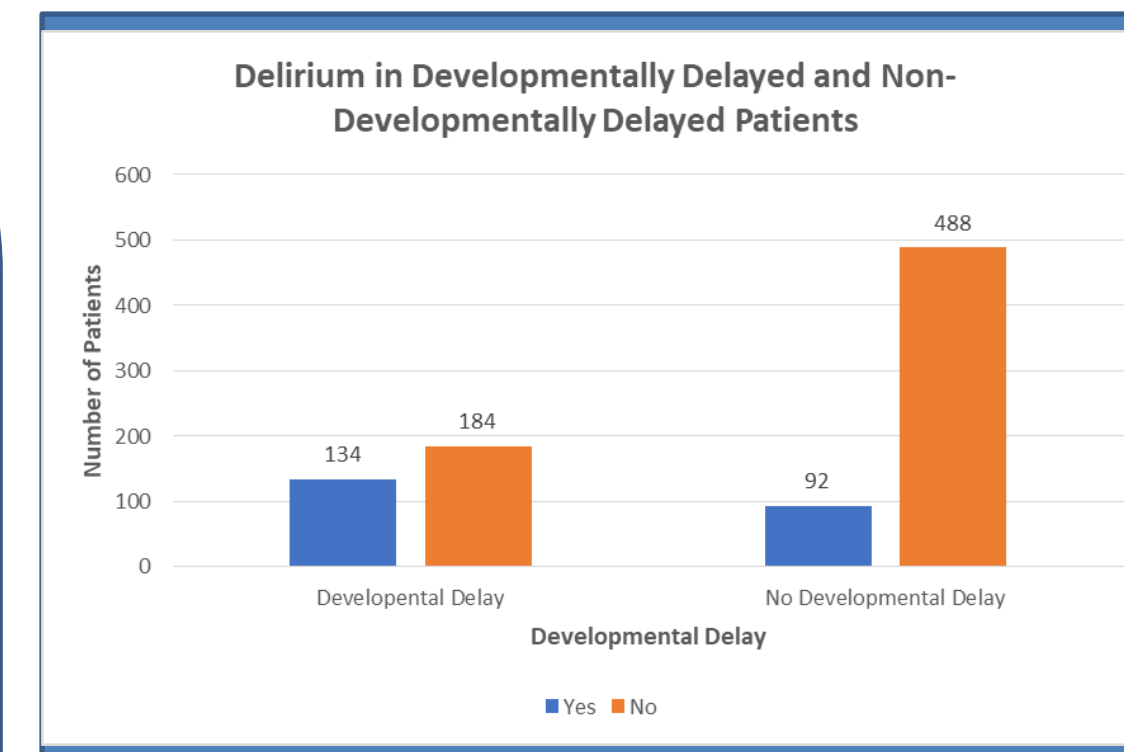
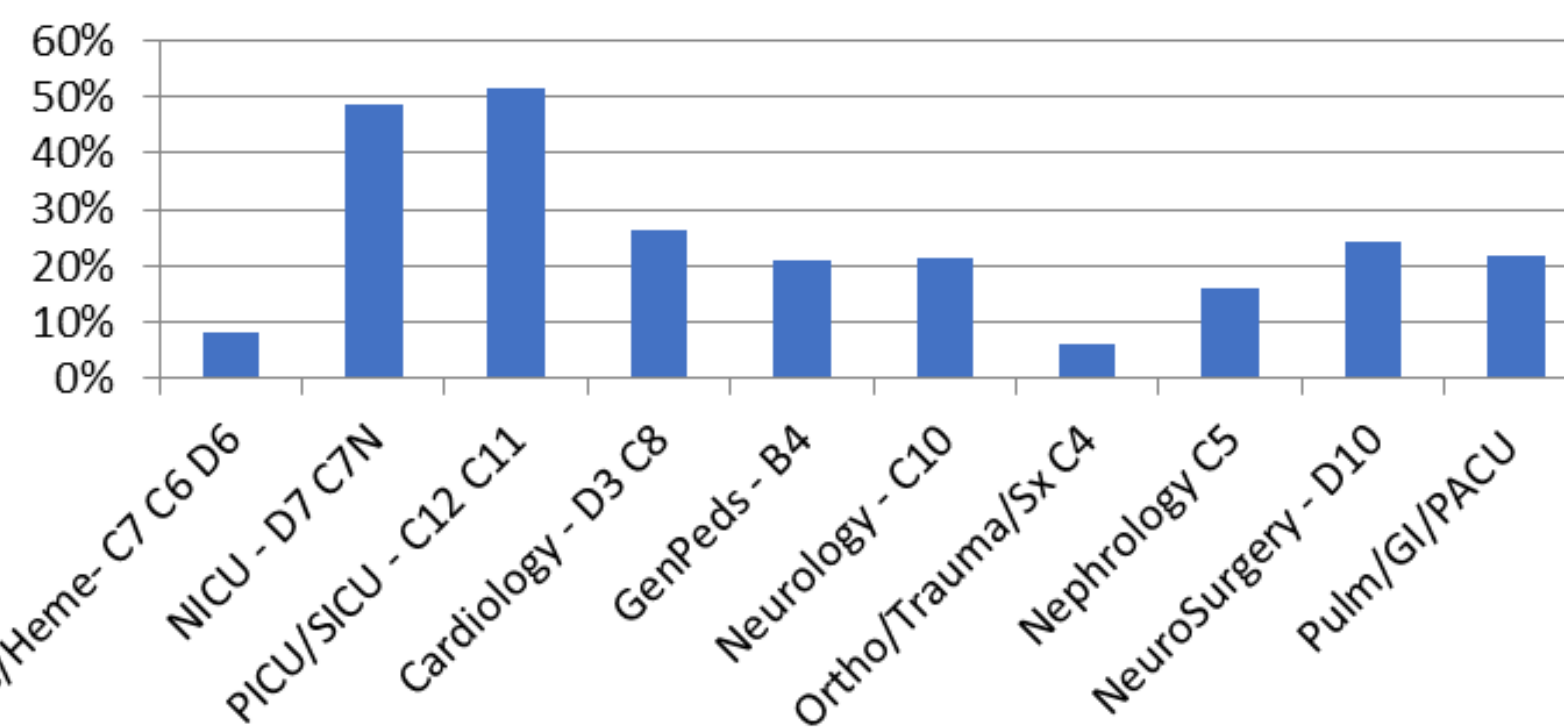
### Feasibility:

- ❖ Completion of screening forms was greater than 80%

### Hospital incidence of delirium:

- ❖ Delirium was found across all floors, and 26% of patients had a positive delirium screen.
- ❖ When removing children with known developmental disabilities (as specificity of the delirium screening tool is decreased in this hard-to-assess population), the delirium rate was 16%.

### Percentage Of Patients With Positive Delirium Screen



## CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

- ❖ Hospital-wide delirium screening by pediatric therapists is feasible and practical.
- ❖ Strategies to prevent and treat delirium need to be clearly defined across all hospital service lines.
- ❖ Further study is necessary to determine best practices for delirium screening in children with developmental disabilities