

**Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario:  
Nursing Best Practice Guidelines Program**  
**Delirium, Dementia, and Depression in Older Adults: Assessment and  
Care, Second Edition**  
**July 2016**

## Systematic Review Search Strategy

Concurrent with the review of existing guidelines, a systematic review for recent literature relevant to the scope of the guideline was conducted by a health sciences librarian.

**Databases Searched:** Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health (CINAHL), Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials, Embase, Educational Resource Information Centre (ERIC) (used only for research question three), MEDLINE, MEDLINE In-Process, and PsychINFO.

### **Inclusion Criteria:**

The following criteria were used to guide the literature search:

- A primary focus on delirium, dementia or depression in older adults aged 65 and older, specifically in relation to:
  - assessment and screening of a delirium, dementia, and/or depression;
  - management approaches for a delirium, dementia, and/or depression;
  - nursing education required for assessment and management of delirium, dementia, and/or depression; and
  - organizational policies and structures that enable assessment and management of delirium, dementia, and/or depression.
- Published between January 2009 and April/May 2015
- Published in English
- Accessible for retrieval
- Applicable across health settings/sectors where nurses provide direct clinical care to older adults
- Primary focus on Nurses (RN, RPN, NP, CNS)
- Secondary focus on other health-care providers (whose scope of practice overlaps with nursing)
- Applicable to a Canadian context
- Study methodology limited to: meta-analysis, systematic reviews, integrative reviews, critical reviews, and review of qualitative, quantitative or mixed methods studies that address search terms.

### **Exclusion Criteria:**

The following criteria were used to exclude literature from the search:

- Topic not related to delirium, dementia, or depression and articles not related specifically to one of these (e.g., cognitive impairment, mild cognitive impairment, etc.)
- Dissertations, commentaries, narrative, discussion papers, single qualitative or quantitative studies
- 1-2 pagers
- Non-English studies
- Unpublished (grey literature)
- No lab studies in any type of animal
- Articles related to building or validating assessment/screening tools
- Articles with a specific focus on effectiveness of certain pharmacologic interventions
- Articles with a specific focus on effectiveness of particular clinical diagnostic tests
- Articles with a broad range in sample age (e.g., 18-80 year olds)
- Articles focused on longer term strategies (e.g. for chronic, stable conditions)

### **Search Terms**

Below are condensed search strategies used for each research question in MEDLINE. Comparable terms were used in all other databases searched.

**Question 1:** What are the most effective ways for nurses to screen or assess older adults for delirium, dementia, and/or depression?

Population	Condition	Assessment	Limits
Older adults aged 65 and older with delirium, dementia, and/or depression.  All sectors where nurses provide direct care, such as: primary care, emergency, acute care, home care (Community dwelling) ALC (alternative level of care)/ complex continuing care, long-term care)  Nurses (RN, RPN, NP, CNS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delirium</li> <li>• Dementia</li> <li>• Alzheimer Disease</li> <li>• Vascular Dementia</li> <li>• Lewy Body Disease</li> <li>• Depression</li> <li>• Depressive Disorder</li> <li>• Delirium, dementia, amnestic, cognitive disorders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcome and process assessment</li> <li>• Patient outcome assessment</li> <li>• Needs assessment</li> <li>• Geriatric assessment</li> <li>• Nursing assessment</li> <li>• Self-assessment</li> <li>• Risk assessment</li> <li>• Symptom assessment</li> <li>• Assess</li> <li>• Screen</li> <li>• Evaluate</li> <li>• Measure</li> <li>• Nursing diagnosis</li> <li>• Risk factors</li> <li>• Mass screening</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meta-analyses or scientific integrity review or systematic review</li> <li>• Not animals</li> <li>• Age 65 and over</li> <li>• English</li> <li>• 2009 - 2015</li> </ul>

**Question 2:** What are the most effective approaches for management of older adults with delirium, dementia, and/or depression?

Population	Condition	Intervention	Limits
<p>Older adults aged 65 and older with delirium, dementia, and/or depression.</p> <p>(in all sectors where nurses provide direct, clinical care, such as: primary care, emergency, acute care, home care (Community dwelling) ALC (alternative level of care)/complex continuing care, long-term care)</p> <p>Nurses (RN, RPN, NP, CNS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delirium</li> <li>• Dementia</li> <li>• Alzheimer Disease</li> <li>• Vascular Dementia</li> <li>• Lewy Body Disease</li> <li>• Depression</li> <li>• Depressive Disorder</li> <li>• Delirium, dementia, amnestic, cognitive disorders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient care management</li> <li>• Patient care planning</li> <li>• Therapeutics</li> <li>• Early medical intervention</li> <li>• Disease management</li> <li>• Patient education as topic</li> <li>• Manage</li> <li>• Plan</li> <li>• Therapy</li> <li>• Intervention</li> <li>• Treatment</li> <li>• Patient education</li> <li>• Client education</li> <li>• Caregiver education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meta-analyses or scientific integrity review or systematic review</li> <li>• Not animals</li> <li>• Age 65 and over</li> <li>• English</li> <li>• 2009 - 2015</li> </ul>

**Question 3:** What education and training strategies (taught in basic curricula, advanced practice education or ongoing professional development programs) do nurses need to be effective during the assessment and management of older adults with delirium, dementia, and/or depression?

Population	Condition	Education	Limits
<p>Nurses and nursing students providing direct clinical care to older adults with delirium, dementia and depression</p> <p>Nurse educators, professors Nurses: RN, RPN, NP, CNS Secondary (other health-care providers whose scope of practice overlaps with nursing)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delirium</li> <li>• Dementia</li> <li>• Alzheimer Disease</li> <li>• Vascular Dementia</li> <li>• Lewy Body Disease</li> <li>• Depression</li> <li>• Depressive Disorder</li> <li>• Delirium, dementia, amnestic, cognitive disorders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Professional education</li> <li>• Continuing education</li> <li>• Nursing education</li> <li>• Professional retraining education</li> <li>• Distance education</li> <li>• Education department</li> <li>• Public health professional education</li> <li>• Teaching hospitals</li> <li>• Clinical clerkship</li> <li>• In-service training</li> <li>• Staff development</li> <li>• Preceptorship</li> <li>• Teaching</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meta-analyses or scientific integrity review or systematic review</li> <li>• Not animals</li> <li>• Age 65 and over</li> <li>• English</li> <li>• 2009 - 2015</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curriculum</li> <li>• Webcasts</li> <li>• Mentors</li> <li>• Learning</li> <li>• Videoconferencing</li> </ul>	
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**Question 4:** What organizational policies and structures are required to enable nurses to assess and manage older adults with delirium, dementia, and/or depression?

Population	Condition	Organizational Intervention	Limits
<p>Health care organizations providing care for older adults with delirium, dementia and/or depression</p> <p>Health-care leaders positioned to advocate and change policy and structures</p> <p>(in all sectors where nurses provide direct, clinical care, such as: primary care, emergency, acute care, home care (community dwelling), ALC (alternative level of care)/complex continuing care, long-term care)</p> <p>(note: Nurses include RN, RPN, NP, CNS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delirium</li> <li>• Dementia</li> <li>• Alzheimer Disease</li> <li>• Vascular Dementia</li> <li>• Lewy Body Disease</li> <li>• Depression</li> <li>• Depressive Disorder</li> <li>• Delirium, dementia, amnesic, cognitive disorders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy</li> <li>• Health policy</li> <li>• Organizational culture</li> <li>• Organizational innovation</li> <li>• Organizational objectives</li> <li>• Theoretical models</li> <li>• Decision making</li> <li>• Clinical decision support systems</li> <li>• Government programs</li> <li>• Health care economics and organizations</li> <li>• Health planning organizations</li> <li>• Health planning support</li> <li>• Legislation</li> <li>• Quality indicators</li> <li>• Quality assurance</li> <li>• Quality improvement</li> <li>• Funding</li> <li>• Economic</li> <li>• Finance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meta-analyses or scientific integrity review or systematic review</li> <li>• Not animals</li> <li>• Age 65 and over</li> <li>• English</li> <li>• 2009 - 2015</li> </ul>

### Hand Search

Panel members were asked to review personal libraries to identify key articles not found through the above search strategies. Articles identified by panel members were included in the search results if two nursing research associates independently determined the articles had not been identified by the literature search and met the inclusion criteria.