

# CAUSES OF DELIRIUM IN THE ELDERLY

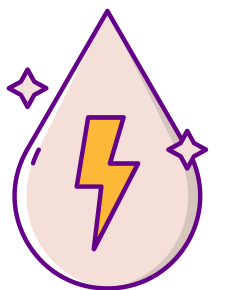
## *for clinical staff*

Delirium is one possible symptom of a urinary tract infection (UTI), but may be due to many other causes than infection.

**D** Dehydration; Depression; Drugs (new drug, increased dose, or drug interaction).



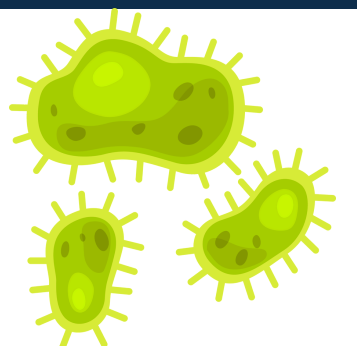
**E** Electrolyte abnormalities (hypo-/hyponatremia, hypo-/hypercalcemia); Endocrine disorders (e.g., thyroid or adrenal dysfunction); EtOH (alcohol) and other drug withdrawal.



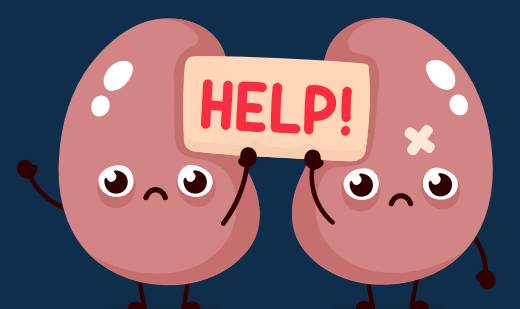
**L** Liver failure



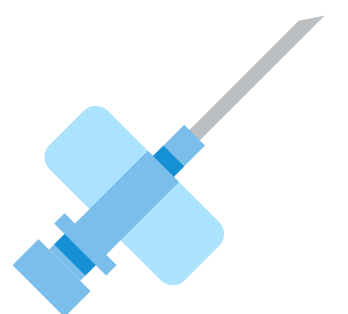
**I** Infections (especially respiratory, skin, urinary tract); Impaired oxygenation (e.g., from exacerbations of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, congestive heart failure, myocardial infarction).



**R** Renal failure; Retention of urine or stool (constipation); Recent change in surroundings or emotional stress.



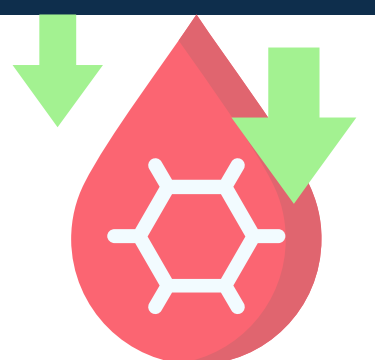
**I** Immobilization (catheters or restraints); Injuries; Increased pressure in the brain (intracranial).



**U** Untreated/undertreated pain.



**M** Metabolic disorders (e.g., hypo-/hyperglycemia, hypo-/hyperthermia); Malnutrition (thiamine, folate or B12 deficiencies).



**S** Sleep deprivation; Sensory impairment (hearing or vision-lack of/ill-fitting hearing aids or glasses); Stroke.

