

Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSMIV): Delirium

Definition

Acute and severe confusion and change in brain function that occurs in conjunction with a physical or mental illness

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM IV) officially defines delirium as a disturbance of consciousness with **inattention** accompanied by a change in **cognition or perceptual disturbance** that **develops over a short period** of time (hours to days) and **fluctuates** over time.