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*Above all else, guard your heart, for out of it flows the Wellspring of life.*

*Proverbs 4:23*

## MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

# Cognitive Disorders (Delirium, Dementia, Amnesic Disorders)

### Delirium

#### *Potential Symptoms / Causes*

- Reduced ability to maintain attention to external stimuli and to appropriately shift attention to new external stimuli. Thus at least 1 of:
  - Questions had to be repeated because attention wandered
  - Perseverated answers to previous questions
- Disorganized thinking
- Confusion developed over a short period of time
- Fluctuating level of confusion
- At least 2 out of 6 of:
  - Reduced level of consciousness
  - Perceptual disturbances
  - Disturbance of sleep-wake cycle
  - Increased or decreased psychomotor activity
  - Disorientation to time, place, or person
  - Memory impairment
- Either of the following:
  - Evidence that an organic factor initiated and maintained this confusion
  - Confusion cannot be accounted for by any nonorganic mental disorder

#### *Alternative Causes*

Schizophrenia; Schizophreniform Disorder; and other psychotic disorders; Dementia; Factitious Disorder with Psychological Symptoms.