

# WHY DO WE NEED **DELIRIUM** AWARE HOSPITAL CARE?



1

## Delirium is a safety concern

Research has found that

- three-quarters of older people who fell in hospital had symptoms of delirium, often unrecognised.
- when teams successfully reduce delirium, they also reduce falls.



3

## Delirium is costly

Delirium can be distressing and damaging- it is also expensive:

- the additional health costs of delirium cost as much as falls or diabetes.

4



Delirium is one of the most common preventable adverse events among older people in hospital. A third or more of delirium that occurs while people are in our care can be prevented.

Delirium care processes are increasingly being recognised as quality indicators for clinical care. Why is it so important?

## Delirium worsens prognosis

Older people who have a delirium in hospital:

- are more likely to die in hospital and in the year following their discharge
- are more likely to move into aged residential care.



2

## Delirium affects cognition

Delirium can have long-term effects on older people's cognition:

- delirium increases the risk of dementia.
- for people already living with dementia, delirium can accelerate cognitive decline.