

Characteristics of Depression, Delirium and Dementia			
	Depression	Delirium	Dementia
Onset	Weeks to months	Hours to days	Months to years
Mood	Low/apathetic	Fluctuates	Fluctuates
Course	Chronic; responds to treatment.	Acute; responds to treatment	Chronic, with deterioration over time
Self-Awareness	Likely to be concerned about memory impairment	May be aware of changes in cognition; fluctuates	Likely to hide or be unaware of cognitive deficits
Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)	May neglect basic self-care	May be intact or impaired	May be intact early, impaired as disease progresses
Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs)	May be intact or impaired	May be intact or impaired	May be intact early, impaired before ADLs as disease progresses