



Clinical Documentation Integrity Weekly Bulletin

Medical Staff –8.4.2015

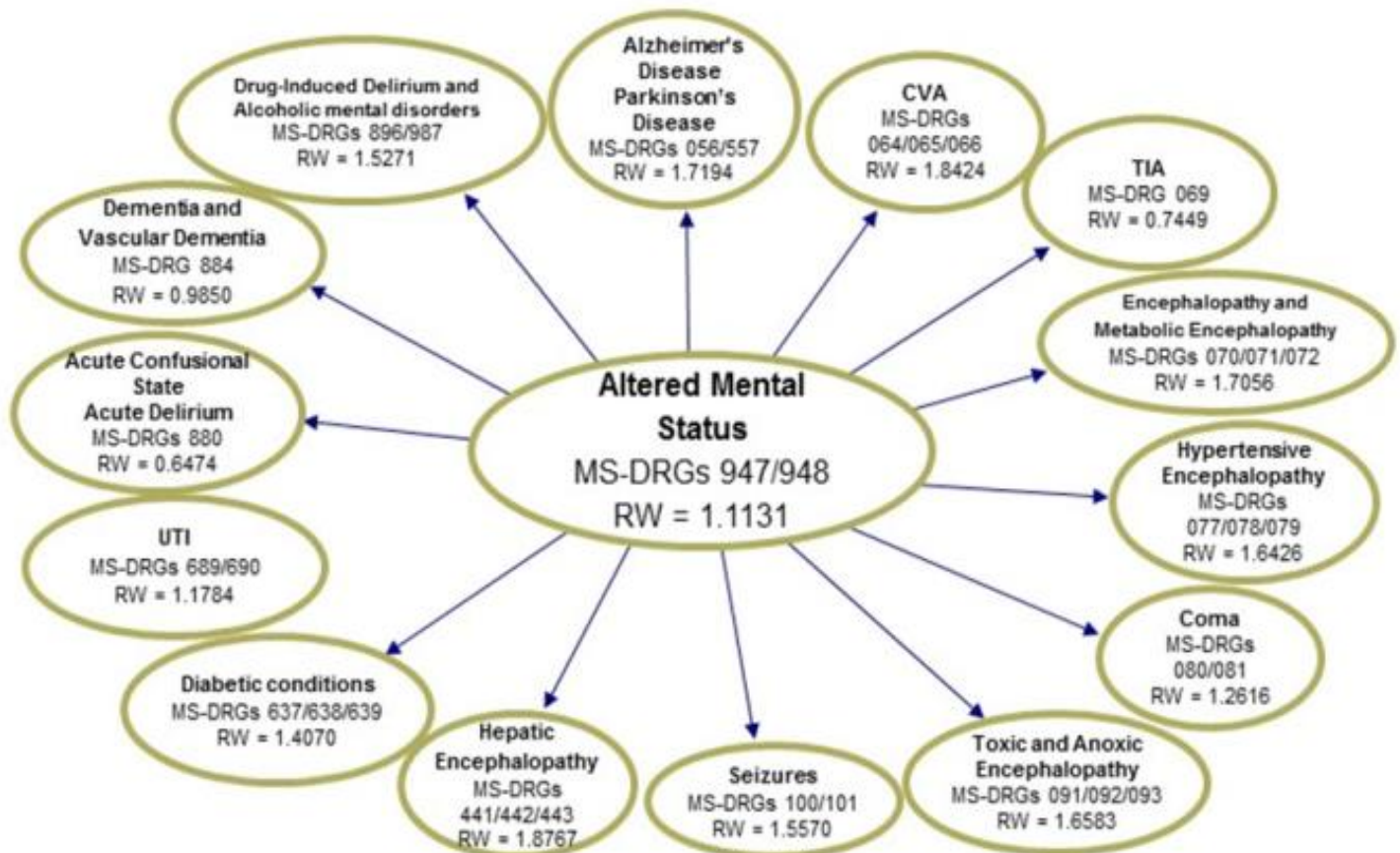
Talk Ten (ICD 10) Tuesday Tips....Got a Minute:

Specificity: *noun*spec·i·fic·i·ty\,spe-sə-'fi-sə-tē\
the quality or condition of being free from ambiguity

Altered Mental Status (AMS).....but what is it???

AMS is a term with many potential clinical meanings, but is **considered 'confusion'** when the Patient's medical record is coded.

To capture the severity, please consider using the following conditions, when appropriate, rather than the term "altered mental status".



See Back of Page for some Definitions

Not Part of the Medical Record

Definitions:

Encephalopathy – Nondegenerative diffuse brain disorder secondary to an underlying process, ie. sepsis, toxic, metabolic, hypertensive, hepatic, anoxic. The hallmark is altered mental state.

Delirium - Disturbance of consciousness with reduced ability to focus, sustain, or shift attention. Disorganized thinking, agitation, misperceptions of sensory stimuli, and visual hallucinations.

Dementia – Progressive decline in mental processes. Memory impairment, cognitive disturbances, and a disturbance in executive function.

Stupor - State of baseline unresponsiveness that requires repeated application of vigorous stimuli to achieve arousal.

Coma - State of unresponsiveness in which the patient lies with eyes closed and cannot be aroused, even with vigorous stimulation.

TIA - Brief cerebral, spinal, or retinal ischemia without acute infarction. Cerebral Embolus or Thrombus (without infarction) is usually an underlying cause of TIA

Stroke – Neurological Symptoms with evidence of stroke on neuroimaging

Aborted Stroke – “Stroke in Evolution” – Transient neurologic symptoms due to ischemia with a normal MRI. Therapeutic efforts (e.g. tPA) may play a role

Psychosis –Disturbance in perception of reality. Delusions, hallucinations, and thought Disorganization