PROJECT TITLE: Embedding Routine Informal, Family Caregiver Assessment of Delirium Superimposed on Dementia into Acute Care

PROPOSAL NUMBER: Patient3	PI: Andrea Sillner	
RESEARCH THEME: Patient Experience		
BUDGET: $100,000	MULTI-UNIVERSITY PROJECT: YES	PROJECT YEAR: 1

DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this pilot study is to assess initial accuracy and feasibility of communication of observed symptoms of delirium in older adults with complex multiple chronic conditions dementia by family caregivers utilizing app-based delivery of the Family Confusion Assessment Method (FAM-CAM) in the acute care setting.

HOW THIS IS DIFFERENT THAN RELATED RESEARCH:

Current standards in diagnosing delirium rely on diagnostic criteria of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th Edition (DSM-5) and the International Statistical Classification of Disease and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision (ICD-10); however, there are no specific diagnostic criteria for delirium in persons with preexisting dementia. Recommended assessment tools for delirium, such as the Confusion Assessment Method (CAM), take into account changes from normal, but often this is unknown to formal healthcare providers. For older adults with complex multiple chronic conditions and cognitive impairment, the person who may be best able to assess baseline cognitive function is the family caregiver. A modification of CAM, FAM-CAM, allows family caregivers to report their observations of symptoms of delirium in a standardized method. The FAM-CAM shows potential to improve recognition, and therefore, management of delirium in the acute care setting.

EXPERIMENTAL PLAN:

Aim 1: to assess the initial agreement of communication of observed symptoms of delirium in older adults with complex multiple chronic conditions by family caregivers utilizing app-based delivery of FAM-CAM compared to trained observers.

Aim 2: to determine feasibility of embedding the app-based FAM-CAM within the electronic medical record.

EXPECTED MILESTONES:

To meet the aims of the proposed project, the following steps will be undertaken:
1) development of application based FAM-CAM for use within the acute care setting,
2) assessment of the accuracy and feasibility of using this tool within the acute care setting, and
3) determination of how to sync FAM-CAM with the acute care electronic medical record so that the communication of symptoms noted by informal caregiver at the bedside is routinely and accurately delivered to healthcare providers, so that action can take place.

BENEFITS TO INDUSTRY:

Understanding how we can allow informal family caregivers at the bedside to routinely communicate observed signs and symptoms of common hospital adverse events to medical staff using app-based technology and standardized screening instruments.

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES:

Dissemination of findings by publications and presentations to stakeholders at all levels of care, including, but not limited to healthcare providers, patients, informal caregivers, and industry partners.