

# Development and Validation of an ICU Delirium Playbook for Provider Education

**OBJECTIVES:** Although delirium detection and prevention practices are recommended in critical care guidelines, there remains a persistent lack of effective delirium education for ICU providers. To address this knowledge-practice gap, we developed an “ICU Delirium Playbook” to educate providers on delirium detection (using the Confusion Assessment Method for the ICU) and prevention.

**DESIGN:** Building on our previous ICU Delirium Video Series, our interdisciplinary team developed a corresponding quiz to form a digital “ICU Delirium Playbook.” Playbook content validity was evaluated by delirium experts, and face validity by an ICU nurse focus group. Additionally, focus group participants completed the quiz before and after video viewing. Remaining focus group concerns were evaluated in semi-structured follow-up interviews.

**SETTING:** Online validation survey, virtual focus group, and virtual interviews.

**SUBJECTS:** The validation group included six delirium experts in the fields of critical care, geriatrics, nursing, and ICU education. The face validation group included nine ICU nurses, three of whom participated in the semi-structured feedback interviews.

**INTERVENTIONS:** None.

**MEASUREMENTS AND MAIN RESULTS:** The 44-question quiz had excellent content validity (average scale-level content validity index [S-CVI] of individual items = 0.99, universal agreement S-CVI = 0.93, agreement  $\kappa \geq 0.75$ , and clarity  $p \geq 0.8$ ). The focus group participants completed the Playbook in an average (SD) time of 53 (14) minutes, demonstrating significant improvements in pre-post quiz scores (74% vs 86%;  $p = 0.0009$ ). Verbal feedback highlighted the conciseness, utility, and relevance of the Playbook, with all participants agreeing to deploy the digital education module in their ICUs.

**CONCLUSIONS:** The ICU Delirium Playbook is a novel, first-of-its-kind asynchronous digital education tool aimed to standardize delirium detection and prevention practices. After a rigorous content and face validation process, the Playbook is now available for widespread use.

**KEY WORDS:** critical care; delirium; early diagnosis; nursing education; validation study

Delirium is a syndrome of “acute brain failure” affecting up to 50% of all ICU patients and 80% of those receiving mechanical ventilation (1, 2). A devastating syndrome, delirium is independently associated with various adverse consequences, including short- and long-term cognitive, physical, and mental health impairments as well as longer ICU and hospital length of stay (3–9).

Given the prevalence and consequences of delirium, the 2018 Society of Critical Care Medicine Clinical Practice Guidelines for Pain, Agitation/Sedation, Delirium, Immobility, and Sleep Disruption recommend screening all ICU patients daily using validated tools such as the Confusion Assessment

Hirsh Makhija, MS<sup>1</sup>

Janelle M. Fine, BS<sup>1</sup>

Daniel Pollack, MSN, APRN,  
ACCNS-AG, CCRN<sup>2,3</sup>

Francesca Novelli, MSN, RN,  
CCRN<sup>2-4</sup>

Judy E. Davidson, DNP, RN,  
MCCM, FAAN<sup>2,5</sup>

Shannon A. Cotton, BSN, RN,  
CCRN<sup>2,3</sup>

Bianca Diaz De Leon, BS, BA<sup>1</sup>

Paola Alicea Reyes, BS<sup>6</sup>

Jessica L. Montoya, PhD<sup>5</sup>

Carmen Mabel Arroyo-Novoa,  
PhD, RN, MSN, MSc, FCCM<sup>7</sup>

Milagros I. Figueroa-Ramos, PhD,  
RN, MSN, FCCM<sup>7</sup>

Yeonsu Song, PhD, RN, FNP<sup>8-10</sup>

Ana Lucia Fuentes, MD<sup>1</sup>

Jamie Nicole LaBuzetta, MD,  
MSc, MPhil<sup>11</sup>

Alison A. Moore, MD, MPH<sup>12</sup>

E. Wesley Ely, MD, MPH<sup>13-15</sup>

Atul Malhotra, MD<sup>1</sup>

Dale M. Needham, MD, PhD<sup>16,17</sup>

Jennifer L. Martin, PhD<sup>9,10</sup>

Biren B. Kamdar, MD, MBA, MHS<sup>1</sup>

Copyright © 2023 The Authors. Published by Wolters Kluwer Health, Inc. on behalf of the Society of Critical Care Medicine. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial-No Derivatives License 4.0 (CCBY-NC-ND), where it is permissible to download and share the work provided it is properly cited. The work cannot be changed in any way or used commercially without permission from the journal.

DOI: 10.1097/CCE.0000000000000939



## KEY POINTS

**Question:** What is the content and face validity of a novel ICU Delirium Playbook digital education module for critical care providers?

**Findings:** A panel of delirium experts found that the Playbook had excellent content validity and clarity. A subsequent focus group of ICU nurses completing the Playbook yielded significant improvements in pre-post quiz scores (74% vs 86%), with positive feedback regarding the module's conciseness, utility, and relevance.

**Meaning:** The ICU Delirium Playbook is a novel digital educational module for delirium detection and prevention and is now available for widespread use.

Method for the ICU (CAM-ICU), and addressing modifiable risk factors (e.g., benzodiazepine infusions) using multicomponent strategies (2, 10). Although the CAM-ICU was validated more than 20 years ago, requires no equipment and takes less than 2 minutes to perform, many ICU providers struggle to consistently and correctly detect delirium, thus hindering prevention practices. Specifically, CAM-ICU completion rates can be as low 38%, with up to 30% of documented assessments inappropriately scored “unable-to-assess” despite a patient being noncomatose (10–12). Delirium assessments can be particularly challenging in the setting of hypoactivity or neurologic diagnoses (e.g., dementia, stroke), heightening the chances of incorrect documentation and under-detection (13, 14).

Although consistent delirium detection and prevention practices can benefit both patients (e.g., improved outcomes) and providers (e.g., lower burden), the majority of bedside providers report receiving insufficient delirium education (15–21). Prior efforts attempted to fill this knowledge gap via one-time lectures and webinars, intensive workshops, bedside simulations, paper-based self-learning, and e-learning modules, but were often limited in scale and sustainability, and/or used nonvalidated knowledge assessment tools (22–30). To address this issue, our interdisciplinary team built on our prior ICU Delirium Video Series by developing and validating a corresponding quiz, thus forming the

first-of-its-kind “ICU Delirium Playbook” as described in this article.

## METHODS

### ICU Delirium Playbook Development

Motivated by consistent ICU nurse reports regarding a lack of prior and ongoing delirium education, our interdisciplinary team (of nurse educators, physicians, bedside nurses, implementation scientists, and research staff) sought to fill this gap by developing an ICU Delirium Video Series. Notably, this seven-video series included teaching on the indications for delirium screening and details regarding the CAM-ICU assessment such as demonstrations and considerations (e.g., assessing non-English-speaking patients and those with neurologic deficits). This series was later pilot tested in a group of 20 critical care nurses, who provided important feedback and confirmation of knowledge acquisition via completion of a publicly available CAM-ICU quiz (31). Furthermore, the pilot feedback motivated video refinements and the addition of an eighth video emphasizing the benefits of detection and interdisciplinary prevention strategies including sedation minimization and family engagement (2, 31).

Following the pilot group, the interdisciplinary team identified a need to develop and validate a quiz that reflected the content of the updated ICU Delirium Video Series. Using the eight videos, the team outlined one to four learning objectives within each of the seven content domains (**Table 1**), and leveraged established guidelines and methodologies to draft a multiple-choice quiz, taking care to include plausible distractors, minimize misleading stems, and avoid complex answer choices (17, 32, 33) (**Fig. 1**). The videos and quiz were combined in Qualtrics (Provo, UT), forming the first version of the “ICU Delirium Playbook” ([www.icudeliriumplaybook.com](http://www.icudeliriumplaybook.com)).

### Content Validation

**Delirium Expert Panel and Validation Survey.** With guidance from an experienced nurse scientist (J.E.D.), our team followed an established content validation methodology to conduct an expert Playbook review using a Qualtrics survey (34). To recruit experts in delirium detection and prevention education, our Playbook team received

**TABLE 1.**  
**ICU Delirium Playbook Content Domains and Learning Objectives**

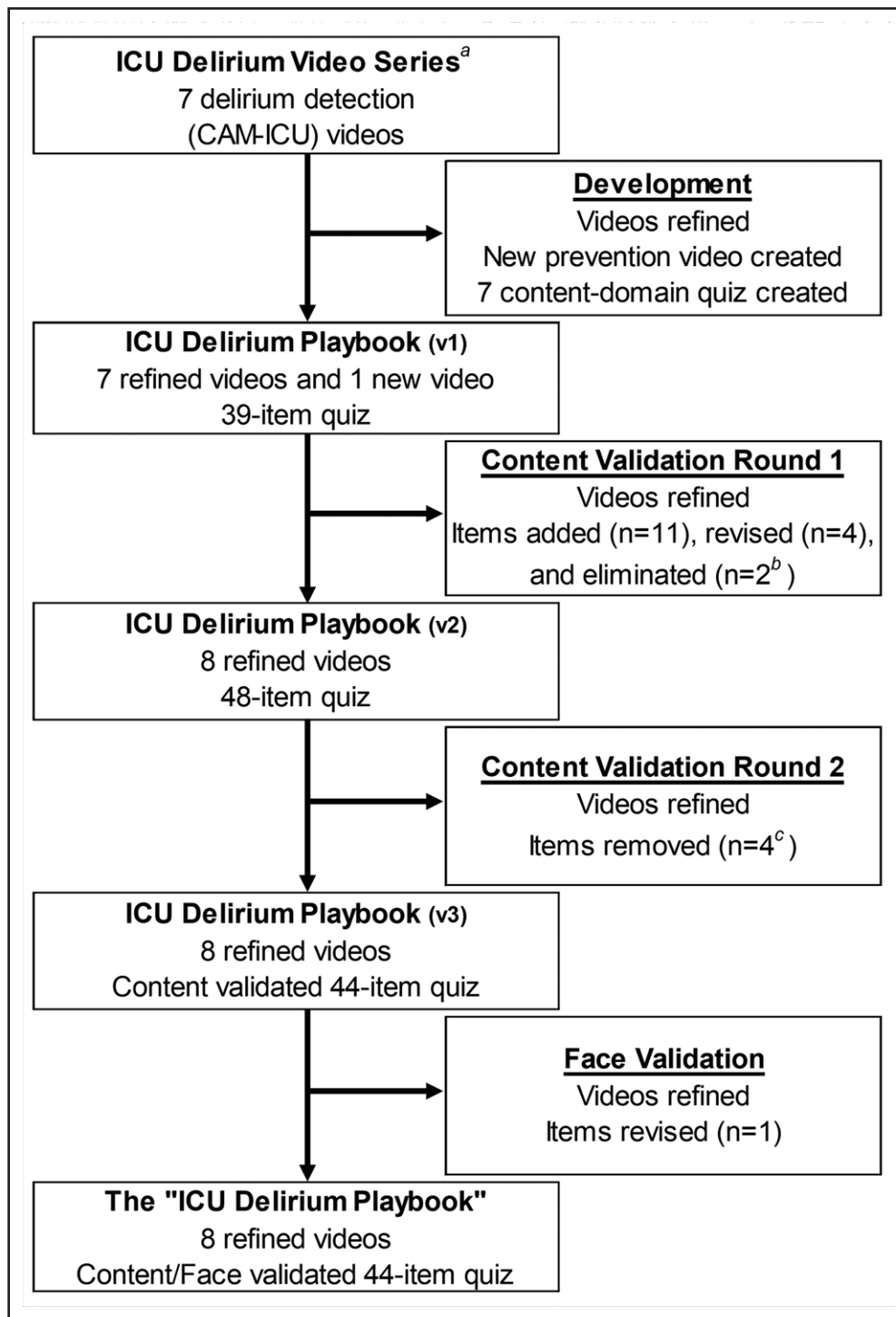
Content Domain	Order No.	Length (min:s)	Learning Objectives
CAM-ICU Feature 1: Acute change in mental status	1	03:35	Describe sources of information that may identify whether the patient's mental status has altered from baseline in the past 24 hr (e.g., patient "handoff," family, electronic medical record) Evaluate whether Feature 1 (acute change or fluctuating course of mental status) is positive/present or negative/absent Know that proceeding with the CAM-ICU is necessary if Feature 1 (acute change or fluctuating course of mental status) is positive/present
CAM-ICU Feature 3: Altered level of consciousness (RASS)	2 <sup>a</sup>	04:59	Use the RASS correctly Understand that the RASS can be used to evaluate all critically ill patients (e.g., mechanically ventilated and/or sedated) Evaluate Feature 3 (altered level of consciousness) as either positive/present or negative/absent based on the RASS score Know to proceed with the CAM-ICU if Feature 3 (altered level of consciousness) is positive/present
CAM-ICU Feature 2: Inattention	3 <sup>a</sup>	03:41	Perform the S-A-V-E-A-H-A-A-R-T assessment <sup>b</sup> correctly Evaluate Feature 2 (Inattention) as either positive/present or negative/absent based on how many errors the patient makes Recognize when adaptations to Feature 2 (inattention) are needed Know to proceed with the CAM-ICU if Feature 1 (acute change or fluctuating course of mental status) and Feature 2 are both positive/present
CAM-ICU Feature 4: Disorganized thinking	4	03:58	Perform the "Fingers" command and Yes/No questions assessment correctly Evaluate whether Feature 4 (disorganized thinking) is positive/present or negative/absent based on the "Fingers" command and the Yes/No questions assessment Recognize when adaptations to Feature 4 (disorganized thinking) are needed Know how to proceed with the CAM-ICU if Feature 4 (disorganized thinking) is positive/present
Delirium and the CAM-ICU: Pearls and pitfalls	5	01:57	Know when to document the CAM-ICU as "unable to assess" Explain indications and contraindications for performing regular delirium assessments on a patient List online resources for CAM-ICU translations and modifications
Performing the CAM-ICU: Examples numbers 1 and 2	6	07:53 <sup>c</sup>	Demonstrate assessment competency with the CAM-ICU based on assessments of changes in mental status (Feature 1), inattention (Feature 2), level of consciousness (Feature 3), and disorganized thinking (Feature 4) (if needed)
CAM-ICU positive: My patient is delirious, now what?	7	08:43	Explain the importance of routinely screening and monitoring patients for delirium Identify interventions (e.g., sedation minimization) to manage and prevent delirium Recognize patients eligible for early mobilization interventions Understand the importance of implementing environmental and non-pharmacological interventions to synchronize sleep/wake rhythms

CAM-ICU = Confusion Assessment Method for the ICU, RASS = Richmond Agitation-Sedation Scale.

<sup>a</sup>Feature 3 precedes Feature 2 as required physical contact for Feature 2 can invalidate verbal responsiveness evaluation portion of Feature 3.

<sup>b</sup>Involves reading a series of 10 letters (e.g., S-A-V-E-A-H-A-A-R-T or C-A-S-A-B-L-A-N-C-A) and having the patient squeeze the assessor's hand when hearing the letter "A."

<sup>c</sup>Includes two videos.



**Figure 1.** Flowchart of ICU Delirium Playbook development. <sup>a</sup>Refers to the original ICU Delirium Video Series (31). <sup>b</sup>One item removed based on expert comments. <sup>c</sup>All items removed based on expert comments. CAM-ICU = Confusion Assessment Method for the ICU, v = version.

recommendations from leaders within the American Delirium Society. Several experts were contacted via email, and the first six who agreed were selected to participate. All experts received a small token of appreciation for participation.

item as “moderately relevant” or “very relevant,” with an I-CVI score of greater than or equal to 0.8 indicating item relevancy, between 0.70 and 0.79 as an item needing revision, and less than or equal to 0.69 as an item being eliminated (32, 34, 38, 39); 2) the modified

First and second survey hyperlinks were distributed via email (35, 36). The survey prompted delirium experts to view each domain’s video content and evaluate corresponding quiz items (questions), rating each for 1) relevance (Likert scale; 1 = “Not Relevant” to 4 = “Highly Relevant”), 2) clarity (yes/no), and 3) importance (Likert scale; 1 = “Not Essential” to 3 = “Essential”) (32), along with 4) domain and Playbook content comprehensiveness (yes/no) (32, 35–38). The first round of quiz content validation included relevance, clarity, and importance ratings on multiple-choice items as well as comprehensiveness ratings on domains and the entire Playbook. The second round included relevance, clarity, and importance ratings only on edited or new items. In both rounds, expert ratings and comments informed revisions to videos and quiz items, along with item elimination and creation.

**Content Validity and Psychometric Properties.**

Seven properties were evaluated from the validation survey responses: 1) the item-content validity index (I-CVI), equaling the proportion of experts rating an

kappa statistic ( $\kappa$ ) to account for change agreements on I-CVIs, with greater than or equal to 0.75 indicating excellent agreement, between 0.6 and 0.74 good, 0.4 and 0.59 fair, and less than or equal to 0.39 poor (32); 3) the scale-level CVI by average (S-CVI/Ave; the average of all I-CVIs) and 4) the scale-level CVI by universal agreement (S-CVI/UA; the proportion of I-CVIs equaling 1), with S-CVI/Ave greater than or equal to 0.9 and S-CVI/UA greater than or equal to 0.8 indicating excellent content validity (32, 40); 5) a proportion (P) of expert agreement on clarity (yes) ratings, with greater than or equal to 0.8 interpreted as appropriate and less than or equal to 0.79 as an item needing major revision (37); 6) the content validity ratio (CVR), a measure of agreement in expert importance ratings, with less than or equal to 0.99 indicating item nonessentialness (CVR not used to inform item revisions or eliminations in this study) (32, 41) and 7) a proportion (P) of expert agreement on comprehensiveness (yes) ratings, with less than or equal to 0.79 indicating a need for additional quiz items to cover a domain's content (32).

### Face Validation

As critical care nurses are the first-line providers in delirium detection and prevention, we ensured the Playbook was designed to meet the qualifications and educational needs of this primary end-user audience. Via an "ICU Delirium Playbook" focus group teleconference, critical care nurse participants entered individual breakout rooms to evaluate the Playbook. First, participants received a hyperlink and were instructed to complete the new content-validated quiz. Subsequently, participants reentered the main teleconference room where they received a hyperlink for the complete Playbook, which included the videos and identical quiz. In real-time, completed pre- and post-video quizzes were evaluated, with pre-video items flagged if distractors were chosen by greater than 50% of participants and post-video items flagged if answered correctly by less than 80% of participants (42, 43).

Following Playbook completion, participants reconvened and engaged in an open-ended group debrief, which included evaluation of flagged items. Each flagged item was examined for issues such as inadequate supporting education or unclear question wording; participants were then invited to propose

revisions and provide verbal feedback regarding the entire Playbook (32). Following the focus group, participants were invited to complete a voluntary survey, which included a post-Playbook delirium detection and prevention competency self-evaluation. As the focus group was limited to 2 hours based on participant availability, any missed flagged items were later evaluated in semi-structured interviews with focus group participants.

### Analysis

Categorical variables were summarized as proportions and continuous variables as means and sds. After verifying normality with a Shapiro-Wilk test, completion times were reported as means with sds, and pre-post quiz score changes were evaluated using a paired two-sided Student *t* test. Verbal feedback was analyzed using Braun and Clarke's thematic analysis approach (44). All analyses completed using Stata version 17.0 (StataCorp, College Station, TX), with *p* value of less than 0.05 representing statistical significance. As this effort involved standard-of-care bedside practice education, it was certified as not qualifying as human subjects research by the UC San Diego Institutional Review Board (IRB) and therefore not requiring IRB review (IRB No. 201442QI; August 24, 2020). All delirium experts and focus group nurses assented to participation before initiating their modules.

## RESULTS

### Content Validation Round 1

The videos and initial 39-item quiz were evaluated by a panel of six delirium detection and prevention experts, which included four ICU nurse researchers/educators, one critical care physician, and one geriatrician from five U.S. academic hospitals. Thirty-eight of 39 items (97%) had appropriate relevance (I-CVI  $\geq$  0.8) and excellent agreement ( $\kappa \geq$  0.75), with the entire instrument demonstrating strong content validity (S-CVI/Ave = 0.97 and S-CVI/UA = 0.87 [ $\geq$  0.9 and  $\geq$  0.8, respectively]). Additionally, 34 of 39 items (89%) had appropriate clarity ( $p \geq$  0.8), thus requiring minor or zero revisions. Therefore, a single irrelevant item (I-CVI  $\leq$  0.69) was eliminated, and five unclear items ( $p \leq$  0.79) underwent revision (Table 2; and Supplemental Table 1, <http://links.lww.com/CCX/B215>).

**TABLE 2.**  
**Content Validation of ICU Delirium Playbook Quiz ( $n = 6$  Experts)**

Content-Domain	Items Reviewed	n (%)		
		Eliminated	Revised	No Edits
First round validation (39-item quiz)				
Feature 1: Acute change in mental status	3	0 (0)	1 (33)	2 (67)
Feature 2: Inattention	6	1 (17) <sup>a</sup>	1 (17)	4 (66)
Feature 3: Altered level of consciousness (RASS)	6	0 (0)	1 (17)	5 (83)
Feature 4: Disorganized thinking	6	1 (17)	1 (17)	4 (66)
Delirium and the CAM-ICU: Pearls and pitfalls	3	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (100)
Performing the CAM-ICU: Examples 1 and 2	8	0 (0)	0 (0)	8 (100)
CAM-ICU positive: My patient is delirious, now what?	7	0 (0)	0 (0)	7 (100)
First round total	39	2 (5)	4 (10)	33 (85)
Second round validation (four revised and 11 new items) <sup>b</sup>				
Feature 1: Acute change in mental status	5	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (100)
Feature 2: Inattention	1	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (100)
Feature 3: Altered level of consciousness (RASS)	5	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (100)
Feature 4: Disorganized thinking	2	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (100)
CAM-ICU positive: My Patient is delirious, now what?	2	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (100)
Second round total	15	0 (0)	0 (0)	15 (100)
Final "ICU Delirium Playbook" quiz	48	4 (8) <sup>a</sup>	0 (0)	44 (92)

CAM-ICU = Confusion Assessment Method for the ICU, RASS = Richmond Agitation-Sedation Scale.

<sup>a</sup>Question eliminated based on expert comments rather than relevance or clarity.

<sup>b</sup>Zero items required reviewing during this round in the "Delirium and the CAM-ICU: Pearls and Pitfalls" and "Performing the CAM-ICU: Examples 1 and 2."

Two of seven (29%) Playbook content domains did not meet criteria for appropriate comprehensiveness ( $p \geq 0.8$ ), prompting addition of four quiz items each to the "CAM-ICU Feature 1" and "CAM-ICU Feature 3" domains. Overall quiz comprehensiveness was  $p = 0.67$ , prompting addition of one and two items to the "CAM-ICU Feature 4" and "CAM-ICU Positive" domains, respectively. Overall, while 33 of 39 items (85%) had appropriate relevance and clarity, one irrelevant item was eliminated, one unclear item was eliminated based on expert comments, and 11 items were added for comprehensiveness, yielding 48 items (Table 2; and Supplemental Table 1, <http://links.lww.com/CCX/B215>).

## Content Validation Round 2

All 15 items (100%) evaluated met criteria for relevancy (I-CVI  $\geq 0.8$ ), agreement ( $\kappa \geq 0.75$ ), and clarity ( $p \geq 0.8$ ),

thus requiring minor or zero revisions (Table 2; and Supplemental Table 1, <http://links.lww.com/CCX/B215>). While all 48 items (100%) had appropriate relevance and clarity, four items were eliminated based on expert comments, yielding 44 questions with excellent content validity (S-CVI/Ave = 0.99 and S-CVI/UA = 0.93).

## Face Validation

Nine critical care nurses from four academic hospitals were recruited. This group included bedside nurses ( $n = 5$ ), clinical nurse specialists ( $n = 1$ ), nurse scientists ( $n = 1$ ), and nurse practitioners ( $n = 2$ ) who worked primarily in medical-surgical ( $n = 5$ ), neurologic ( $n = 2$ ), and cardiothoracic surgery/cardiovascular ( $n = 2$ ) ICUs. Six nurses had over 5 years of bedside ICU experience, three had no formal delirium detection and prevention training, and one reported English as a second language.

Among four pre- (distractor chosen by > 50%) and 12 post-video items (under 80% correct) deemed concerning, the focus group felt edits were required for zero pre-and 5 post-video items. In follow-up interviews, the remaining seven post-video items were assessed, with only one requiring edits. No items were removed or added to the 44-item quiz.

On the pre- and post-video quizzes, the mean (SD) scores were 74% (12%) and 86% (9%; pre-post difference  $p = 0.0009$ ), with significant improvements observed on the “CAM-ICU Feature 4” and “Performing the CAM-ICU” domains (Table 3). The ICU Delirium Playbook (eight videos and 44-item quiz) required an average (SD) of 53 (14) minutes to complete, with all participants requiring less than 70 minutes.

Compared to before completing the Playbook, six of eight (75%) focus group participants reported feeling more comfortable performing the CAM-ICU on patients with stroke or dementia and managing critically ill patients with delirium (Table 4).

Finally, verbal feedback from nine focus group participants highlighted three major themes: length and structure (e.g., “short” and “videos weren’t too long”); utility (e.g., “I was able to get what I needed from the

videos”); and clinical relevance (e.g., “more real life than...other training” and “highlighted my own personal bias”) (Table 5). Notably, one participant stated that the CAM-ICU feature 3 (altered level of consciousness) domain identified gaps in their own knowledge and highlighted personal sedation biases. Last, all participants agreed they would deploy the ICU Delirium Playbook in their ICUs.

## DISCUSSION

Motivated by multiple ICU nurses reporting a lack of prior delirium education, this article describes the interdisciplinary development and validation of a first-of-its-kind “ICU Delirium Playbook” ([www.icudeliriumplaybook.com](http://www.icudeliriumplaybook.com)), comprised of a series of videos and a corresponding quiz in a scalable, sustainable, and adaptable asynchronous digital platform. Our evaluation demonstrated that the final 44-question quiz had appropriate relevance and clarity, strong content validity, and excellent inter-rater agreement. Importantly, when evaluated by critical care nurses, the Playbook required an average of 53 minutes to complete and yielded significant pre-post quiz score improvements. Following Playbook completion, nurses reported high

**TABLE 3.**  
ICU Delirium Playbook Quiz Performance ( $n = 8$  Nurses)<sup>a</sup>

Content Domain	Questions, $n$	Mean % Correct (SD)		Difference, % (SD)	$p^b$
		Before Video	After Video		
Feature 1: Acute change in mental status	6	79 (15)	85 (17)	6 (9)	0.08
Feature 2: Inattention	5	63 (23)	70 (24)	8 (28)	0.5
Feature 3: Altered level of consciousness (Richmond Agitation-Sedation Scale)	9	76 (21)	86 (18)	10 (26)	0.3
Feature 4: Disorganized thinking	6	52 (29)	81 (11)	29 (29)	0.03
Delirium and the CAM-ICU: Pearls and pitfalls	2	44 (32)	81 (26)	38 (44)	0.05
Performing the CAM-ICU: Examples numbers 1 and 2	8	75 (22)	92 (13)	17 (16)	0.02
CAM-ICU positive: My patient is delirious, now what?	8	97 (6)	97 (6)	0 (7)	1
Entire examination	44	74 (12)	86 (9)	13 (6)	0.0009

CAM-ICU = Confusion Assessment Method for the ICU.

<sup>a</sup>While the focus group included nine ICU nurses, quiz scores include data from only eight nurses, as one experienced technical difficulties during the Qualtrics quiz survey.

<sup>b</sup>Calculated using paired Student  $t$  test.

**TABLE 4.**  
**Self-Reported Competency After**  
**Completing the ICU Delirium Playbook**  
**(n = 8 Nurses)<sup>a</sup>**

Rating	n (%)
Ability to perform Confusion Assessment Method for the ICU on patients who are:	
Critically ill	
Much more comfortable than before	4 (50)
Somewhat more comfortable as before	2 (25)
As comfortable as before	2 (25)
Moderately to deeply sedated	
Much more comfortable than before	5 (63)
Somewhat more comfortable as before	2 (25)
As comfortable as before	1 (12)
Ventilated and semi-awake	
Much more comfortable than before	5 (63)
Somewhat more comfortable as before	1 (12)
As comfortable as before	2 (25)
Encephalopathic	
Much more comfortable than before	4 (50)
Somewhat more comfortable as before	1 (12)
As comfortable as before	3 (38)
History of stroke	
Much more comfortable than before	5 (63)
Somewhat more comfortable as before	1 (12)
As comfortable as before	2 (25)
History of dementia	
Much more comfortable than before	5 (63)
Somewhat more comfortable as before	1 (12)
As comfortable as before	2 (25)
Ability to manage critically ill patients with delirium	
Much more comfortable than before	5 (63)
Somewhat more comfortable as before	1 (12)
As comfortable as before	2 (25)

<sup>a</sup>While the focus group included nine ICU nurses, competency ratings include data from only eight nurses, as one experienced technical difficulties with the Qualtrics survey.

levels of comfort in detecting and documenting delirium correctly.

To our knowledge, the ICU Delirium Playbook is the first digital education tool to emphasize not only the importance of delirium but provide detailed instruction on correct and consistent documentation

**TABLE 5.**  
**Verbal Feedback on the ICU Delirium**  
**Playbook (n = 9 Nurses)<sup>a</sup>**

Theme
Length and structure
“Short...and to the point”
“The videos weren't too long compared to other training videos”
“The written material...portions are too quick”
“I had to pause and go back to read the written slides”
Utility
“I really liked the videos”
“I loved having the vignettes”
“I was able to get what I needed from the videos”
“It's important we have education on this”
“Assessments were excellent”
Clinical relevance
“More real life than the other training I've had”
“I feel like we tend to keep our patients, even if orders say light sedation...at moderate sedation, so it highlighted my own personal bias...and lack of knowledge”
“I think it really highlights the difference between RASS”
“I think it's good...we do have a lot of patients with weakness on one side”
Did the videos provide sufficient education to answer the questions?
Consensus answer was “yes”
Would you deploy the ICU Delirium Playbook in your ICU?
Consensus answer was “yes”
Did we miss anything?
Consensus answer was “no”

RASS = Richmond Agitation-Sedation Scale.

<sup>a</sup>Feedback collected from all nine focus group ICU nurses. Feedback was analyzed using Braun and Clarke's thematic analysis approach.

of all four features of the CAM-ICU in both routine and challenging (e.g., patients receiving sedation and/or mechanical ventilation, or with pre-existing neurocognitive impairments) clinical situations. While the Playbook covers familiar concepts, it also includes expert tips (e.g., evaluating hard of hearing and non-English speaking patients) and addresses common misconceptions, particularly that the CAM-ICU has been validated to be performed in mechanically ventilated



and sedated patients, with “unable-to-assess” reserved primarily for comatose patients (5). Assessing challenging patients and employing necessary adaptations are vital for correct delirium detection and a key step in designing and developing large-scale prevention efforts.

While prior educational interventions often did not include validated assessments, our team was fortunate to include experts with extensive experience in quiz development and validation who could maximize Playbook rigor, yielding a final 44-item quiz with excellent content validity as well as end-user feedback who found the Playbook had strong face validity (34). Furthermore, to optimize familiarity, scalability, and sustainability, we successfully adapted the Playbook to be completed in 60 minutes or less, employ a familiar digital video and quiz format, and be widely accessible via an institutional e-learning system.

Following Playbook completion by a focus group of nine critical care nurses, the majority reported increased levels of comfort in correctly performing the CAM-ICU, with most posting at 9% or higher pre-post quiz improvement, comparable with other prior delirium improvement efforts (22, 24, 45). Overall, this interdisciplinary effort confirmed Playbook validity and associated knowledge acquisition, thus maximizing its educational value. A logical next step would be to use a rigorous approach (e.g., an established implementation framework) to adopt the Playbook in real-world ICU settings while evaluating its sustainability and impact on important patient (e.g., length of stay), family (e.g., satisfaction), and provider (e.g., knowledge) outcomes.

Despite the strengths and novelty of the ICU Delirium Playbook, several limitations require discussion. First, as our delirium experts and nurses represented multiple institutions, differences in local ICU delirium policies and practices yielded occasional disagreements. To address this issue, the interdisciplinary team settled disagreements during virtual meetings and, if needed, adjudicated differences using the CAM-ICU training manual, thus preserving Playbook generalizability (46). Second, given the busy schedules of ICU providers, the interdisciplinary team could not facilitate more than two rounds of content validation and more than 2 hours of face validation. However, this meeting frequency and duration was sufficient, as all questions addressed in the second round were deemed satisfactory for the final Playbook. Third, despite multiple translations of the CAM-ICU, the ICU Delirium Playbook provides education only in English,

thus limiting its reach. To address this limitation, our team has expanded to develop a Spanish language version of the ICU Delirium Playbook, which is currently being translated and culturally adapted before undergoing validation and evaluation. Methods used for the Spanish language version will subsequently be applied to develop the Playbook in other languages. Fourth, due to logistical and scheduling constraints, we were unable to recruit a group with broader clinical (e.g., more neurologic ICU nurses) and diverse representation (e.g., more non-English speakers from outside the United States). Future projects in this area, including one led by an interdisciplinary team from Puerto Rico to evaluate the Spanish language version of the ICU Delirium Playbook, will engage a larger and more diverse group. Fifth, as a video and quiz-based platform, the ICU Delirium Playbook does not include mechanisms for hands-on teaching (e.g., simulated or real patients). Given its expandable digital platform, we anticipate future versions of the Playbook will include novel additions such as game-like simulations, dissemination and implementation strategies for ICU leadership, patient testimonials, and detailed input regarding prevention efforts (e.g., early mobilization).

As the validated ICU Delirium Playbook is now available publicly ([www.icudeliriumplaybook.com](http://www.icudeliriumplaybook.com) and @icuplaybook), how can ICUs use this module at the local level? First, ICU stakeholders must evaluate institutional delirium education practices including barriers and facilitators to early and correct delirium detection at the local level (47). Second, prior to ICU Delirium Playbook rollout, stakeholders must consider an active implementation approach with necessary leadership buy-in, engaged local champions and super users, a disciplined rollout approach, staff incentivization, and audit-and-feedback mechanisms (48). For example, ICU leaders and educators can consider requiring the Playbook for all providers and incentivize completion by awarding learners with continuing education units and opportunities for performing delirium-related projects (49). Establishing a minimum baseline level of knowledge among staff can jumpstart small- and large-scale efforts to evaluate, sustain and optimize ICU delirium practices.

## CONCLUSIONS

Following a rigorous content and face validation process, the ICU Delirium Playbook is now available for

widespread use at [www.icudeliriumplaybook.com](http://www.icudeliriumplaybook.com). Simple and scalable, this digital ICU delirium education module can be completed in less than 60 minutes. This first-of-its-kind module aims to standardize delirium detection and prevention practices and motivate larger-scale efforts to improve critical care practices and patient outcomes.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are grateful to the many critical care nurses, physicians, scientists, and researcher personnel who participated in development of the "ICU Delirium Playbook."

- 1 Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, University of California, San Diego (UCSD) Health, San Diego, CA.
- 2 Nursing Education & Development Research Department, UCSD Health, San Diego, CA.
- 3 Critical Care Unit, UCSD Health, San Diego, CA.
- 4 School of Nursing, Oregon Health and Science University, Ashland, OR.
- 5 Department of Psychiatry, UCSD Health, San Diego, CA.
- 6 School of Medicine, University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- 7 School of Nursing, University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- 8 School of Nursing, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Los Angeles, CA.
- 9 Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center, VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, North Hills, CA.
- 10 UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine, Los Angeles, CA.
- 11 Division of Neurocritical Care, UCSD Health, San Diego, CA.
- 12 Division of Geriatrics, Gerontology and Palliative Care, UCSD Health, San Diego, CA.
- 13 Critical Illness, Brain Dysfunction and Survivorship (CIBS) Center, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN.
- 14 Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center, VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System, Nashville, TN.
- 15 Division of Allergy, Pulmonary, and Critical Care Medicine, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN.
- 16 Division of Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine, and Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD.
- 17 School of Nursing, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD.

Supplemental digital content is available for this article. Direct URL citations appear in the printed text and are provided in the HTML and PDF versions of this article on the journal's website (<http://journals.lww.com/ccejournal>).

Mr. Makhija, Mrs. Fine, Mr. Pollack, Mrs. Novelli, Dr. Davidson, Dr. Ely, Dr. Malhotra, Dr. Needham, Dr. Martin, and Dr. Kamdar involved in conceptualization. Mr. Makhija, Mrs. Fine, Mr. Pollack,

Dr. Davidson, Mrs. Cotton, and Dr. Kamdar involved in data curation. Mr. Makhija, Mrs. Fine, Mr. Pollack, Dr. Davidson, Dr. Martin, and Dr. Kamdar involved in formal analysis. Mr. Makhija, Mrs. Fine, Mr. Pollack, Mrs. Novelli, Dr. Davidson, Mrs. Cotton, Dr. Malhotra, Dr. Martin, and Dr. Kamdar involved in investigation. Mr. Makhija, Mrs. Fine, Mr. Pollack, Mrs. Novelli, Dr. Davidson, Mrs. Cotton, Dr. Arroyo-Novoa, Dr. Figueroa-Ramos, Dr. Song, Dr. Malhotra, Dr. Needham, Dr. Martin, and Dr. Kamdar involved in methodology. Mr. Makhija, Mrs. Fine, Mr. Pollack, Dr. Davidson, Dr. Martin, and Dr. Kamdar involved in project administration. Mr. Makhija, Mr. Pollack, Mrs. Novelli, Dr. Davidson, Mrs. Cotton, Dr. Malhotra, and Dr. Kamdar involved in resources. Mr. Makhija, Mrs. Fine, Mr. Pollack, and Dr. Kamdar involved in software. Mr. Makhija, Mrs. Fine, Mr. Pollack, Dr. Davidson, Dr. Ely, Dr. Malhotra, Dr. Needham, Dr. Martin, and Dr. Kamdar involved in supervision. Mr. Makhija, Mrs. Fine, Mr. Pollack, Mrs. Novelli, Dr. Davidson, Mrs. Cotton, Dr. Montoya, Dr. Malhotra, Dr. Needham, Dr. Martin, and Dr. Kamdar involved in validation. Mr. Makhija, Mrs. Fine, and Dr. Kamdar involved in writing (original draft). Dr. Kamdar involved in funding acquisition. All authors involved in visualization and writing (review and editing).

Dr. Montoya is supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH)/National Institute of Drug Abuse (K23 DA051324). Dr. Song is supported by the NIH/NIA (K23 AG055668). Dr. Moore reports funding from the Alzheimer's Disease - Resource Center for Minority Aging Research (P30 AG059299). Dr. Ely reports grants from the NIH and US Department of Veterans Affairs; he works with Eli Lilly as an unfunded investigator on COVID-19 trials and owns no stocks and has no paid consultancy arrangements with any pharmaceutical companies. Dr. Malhotra is supported by the NIH and reports income related to medical education from Zoll, Jazz, Eli Lilly, and Livanova. ResMed provided a philanthropic donation to University of California San Diego. Dr. Needham received support from NIH/National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) (R24 HL111895). Dr. Martin is supported by a VA Research Career Scientist Award (RCS 20-191) and NIH/NHLBI (K24 HL143055). Dr. Kamdar is supported by the NIH/National Institute on Aging (K76 AG059936). The remaining authors have disclosed that they do not have any potential conflicts of interest.

For information regarding this article, E-mail: [kamdar@ucsd.edu](mailto:kamdar@ucsd.edu)  
The views expressed in this article are our own and not the position of an institution or funder.

ORCIDiDs: Mr. Makhija (0000-0001-8181-0168), Mrs. Fine (0000-0002-6800-4222), Dr. Malhotra (0000-0002-9509-1827), Dr. Needham (0000-0002-9538-0557), Dr. Martin (0000-0003-0849-3391), and Dr. Kamdar (0000-0002-9245-6229).

## REFERENCES

1. Salluh JIF, Wang H, Schneider EB, et al: Outcome of delirium in critically ill patients: Systematic review and meta-analysis. *BMJ* 2015; 350:h2538
2. Devlin JW, Skrobik Y, Gélinas C, et al: Clinical practice guidelines for the prevention and management of pain, agitation/sedation, delirium, immobility, and sleep disruption in adult patients in the ICU. *Crit Care Med* 2018; 46:e825-e873
3. Pandharipande PP, Girard TD, Jackson JC, et al; BRAIN-ICU Study Investigators: Long-term cognitive impairment after critical illness. *N Engl J Med* 2013; 369:1306-1316

4. Girard TD, Jackson JC, Pandharipande PP, et al: Delirium as a predictor of long-term cognitive impairment in survivors of critical illness. *Crit Care Med* 2010; 38:1513–1520
5. Ely EW, Shintani A, Truman B, et al: Delirium as a predictor of mortality in mechanically ventilated patients in the intensive care unit. *JAMA* 2004; 291:1753–1762
6. Thomason JWW, Shintani A, Peterson JF, et al: Intensive care unit delirium is an independent predictor of longer hospital stay: A prospective analysis of 261 non-ventilated patients. *Crit Care* 2005; 9:R375–R381
7. Brummel NE, Jackson JC, Pandharipande PP, et al: Delirium in the ICU and subsequent long-term disability among survivors of mechanical ventilation. *Crit Care Med* 2014; 42:369–377
8. Marcantonio ER: Delirium in hospitalized older adults. *N Engl J Med* 2017; 377:1456–1466
9. Wolters AE, Peelen LM, Welling MC, et al: Long-term mental health problems after delirium in the ICU. *Crit Care Med* 2016; 44:1808–1813
10. Ely EW, Inouye SK, Bernard GR, et al: Delirium in mechanically ventilated patients: Validity and reliability of the confusion assessment method for the intensive care unit (CAM-ICU). *JAMA* 2001; 286:2703–2710
11. Riekerk B, Pen EJ, Hofhuis JGM, et al: Limitations and practicalities of CAM-ICU implementation, a delirium scoring system, in a Dutch intensive care unit. *Intensive Crit Care Nurs* 2009; 25:242–249
12. Terry KJ, Anger KE, Szumita PM: Prospective evaluation of inappropriate unable-to-assess CAM-ICU documentations of critically ill adult patients. *J Intensive Care Med* 2015; 3:52
13. van Eijk MM, van den Boogaard M, van Marum RJ, et al: Routine use of the confusion assessment method for the intensive care unit: A multicenter study. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med* 2011; 184:340–344
14. Reznik ME, Drake J, Margolis SA, et al: Deconstructing post-stroke delirium in a prospective cohort of patients with intracerebral hemorrhage. *Crit Care Med* 2020; 48:111–118
15. Liang S, Chau JPC, Lo SHS, et al: Non-pharmacological delirium prevention practices among critical care nurses: A qualitative study. *BMC Nurs* 2022; 21:235
16. Xing H, Zhu S, Liu S, et al: Knowledge, attitudes and practices of ICU nurses regarding subsyndromal delirium among 20 hospitals in China: A descriptive cross-sectional survey. *BMJ Open* 2022; 12:e063821
17. Hoch J, Bauer JM, Bizer M, et al: Nurses' competence in recognition and management of delirium in older patients: Development and piloting of a self-assessment tool. *BMC Geriatr* 2022; 22:879
18. Trogrlić Z, Ista E, Ponssen HH, et al: Attitudes, knowledge and practices concerning delirium: A survey among intensive care unit professionals. *Nurs Crit Care* 2017; 22:133–140
19. Inouye SK, Foreman MD, Mion LC, et al: Nurses' recognition of delirium and its symptoms: Comparison of nurse and researcher ratings. *Arch Intern Med* 2001; 161:2467–2473
20. Fick DM, Hodo DM, Lawrence F, et al: Recognizing delirium superimposed on dementia: Assessing nurses' knowledge using case vignettes. *J Gerontol Nurs* 2007; 33:40–47; quiz 48–49
21. Trogrlić Z, van der Jagt M, Bakker J, et al: A systematic review of implementation strategies for assessment, prevention, and management of ICU delirium and their effect on clinical outcomes. *Crit Care* 2015; 19:157
22. Detroyer E, Dobbels F, Debonnaire D, et al: The effect of an interactive delirium e-learning tool on healthcare workers' delirium recognition, knowledge and strain in caring for delirious patients: A pilot pre-test/post-test study. *BMC Med Educ* 2016; 16:17
23. Smith JM, Van Aman MN, Schneiderhahn ME, et al: Assessment of delirium in intensive care unit patients: Educational strategies. *J Contin Educ Nurs* 2017; 48:239–244
24. Gesin G, Russell BB, Lin AP, et al: Impact of a delirium screening tool and multifaceted education on nurses' knowledge of delirium and ability to evaluate it correctly. *Am J Crit Care* 2012; 21:e1–e11
25. Marino J, Bucher D, Beach M, et al: Implementation of an intensive care unit delirium protocol: An interdisciplinary quality improvement project. *Dimens Crit Care Nurs* 2015; 34:273–284
26. Lieow JLM, Chen FSM, Song G, et al: Effectiveness of an advanced practice nurse-led delirium education and training programme. *Int Nurs Rev* 2019; 66:506–513
27. Sinvani L, Delle Site C, Laumenede T, et al: Improving delirium detection in intensive care units: Multicomponent education and training program. *J Am Geriatr Soc* 2021; 69:3249–3257
28. Speed G: The impact of a delirium educational intervention with intensive care unit nurses. *Clin Nurse Spec* 2015; 29:89–94
29. Blevins CS, DeGennaro R: Educational intervention to improve delirium recognition by nurses. *Am J Crit Care* 2018; 27:270–278
30. Devlin JW, Fong JJ, Schumaker G, et al: Use of a validated delirium assessment tool improves the ability of physicians to identify delirium in medical intensive care unit patients. *Crit Care Med* 2007; 35:2721–2724; quiz 2725
31. Kamdar BB, Makhija H, Cotton SA, et al: Development and evaluation of an intensive care unit video series to educate staff on delirium detection. *ATS Sch* 2022; 3:535–547
32. Zamanzadeh V, Ghahramanian A, Rassouli M, et al: Design and implementation content validity study: Development of an instrument for measuring patient-centered communication. *J Caring Sci* 2015; 4:165–178
33. Towns MH: Guide to developing high-quality, reliable, and valid multiple-choice assessments. *J Chem Educ* 2014; 91:1426–1431
34. Lynn MR: Determination and quantification of content validity. *Nurs Res* 1986; 35:382–385
35. Davis LL: Instrument review: Getting the most from a panel of experts. *Appl Nurs Res* 1992; 5:194–197
36. Grant JS, Davis LL: Selection and use of content experts for instrument development. *Res Nurs Health* 1997; 20:269–274
37. Davidson JE, Bojorquez G, Upvall M, et al: Nurses' values and perspectives on medical aid in dying: A survey of nurses in the United States. *J Hosp Palliat Nurs* 2022; 24:5–14
38. St Marie B, Jimmerson A, Perkhounkova Y, et al: Developing and establishing content validity of vignettes for health care education and research. *West J Nurs Res* 2021; 43:677–685
39. Polit DF, Beck CT: The content validity index: Are you sure you know what's being reported? Critique and recommendations. *Res Nurs Health* 2006; 29:489–497

40. Shi J, Mo X, Sun Z: [Content validity index in scale development]. *Zhong Nan Da Xue Xue Bao Yi Xue Ban* 2012; 37:152–155
41. Lawshe CH: A quantitative approach to content validity. *Pers Psychol* 1975; 28:563–575
42. McGahee TW, Ball J: How to read and really use an item analysis. *Nurse Educ* 2009; 34:166–171
43. Kulik CLC, Kulik JA: Mastery testing and student learning: A meta-analysis. *J Educ Technol Syst* 1987; 15:325–345
44. Braun V, Clarke V: One size fits all? What counts as quality practice in (reflexive) thematic analysis? *Qual Res Psychol* 2020; 18:1–25
45. Aldawood ZS, Alameri RA, Elghoneimy Y, et al: Impact of educational program on critical care nurses' knowledge of ICU delirium: A quasi-experimental study. *Med Arch* 2023; 77:56–63
46. Ely EW: *Confusion Assessment Method for the ICU (CAM-ICU), The Complete Training Manual*. Nashville, TN, Vanderbilt University, 2016
47. Kim HI, Park S: Sepsis: Early recognition and optimized treatment. *Tuberc Respir Dis* 2019; 82:6–14
48. Glasgow RE, Marcus AC, Bull SS, et al: Disseminating effective cancer screening interventions. *Cancer* 2004; 101:1239–1250
49. Bowen CM, Stanton M, Manno M: Using diffusion of innovations theory to implement the confusion assessment method for the intensive care unit. *J Nurs Care Qual* 2012; 27:139–145