PILOT AWARDS
Developing and submitting a competitive, successful application

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My Project

- Eventually:
  - Delirium severity and long-term clinical outcomes among persons with and without Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias

- For the pilot:
  - Feasibility of assessing delirium severity
  - Feasibility of determining who has ADRD
What is in scope?
- Deciding which delirium, delirium severity instruments to use
- Deciding which measure of delirium severity to use in analysis
- Defining ADRD for this study population

What is out of scope?
- Clinical outcomes (function, nursing home placement, length of stay, re-hospitalization)
Refining methods

- Cognitive status ➔ Brief cognitive testing
- Delirium ➔ Confusion Assessment Method (CAM)

- Delirium severity ➔ CAM-Severity (CAM-S)
  - Peak CAM-S
  - Sum of all CAM-S scores
  - Categorical vs. continuous
Reframing methods

- ADRD status determined by cognitive testing, chart review and expert consensus
  - Informant Questionnaire on Cognitive Decline in the Elderly (IQCODE) ≥3.2
  - Documentation of dementia by ICD-10 codes
  - Impairment on any of three cognitive tests: Montreal Cognitive Assessment <26, brief cognitive screen <14/16 or MoCA delayed recall of ≤2
  - Very variable documentation of cognitive impairment
Of the 352 original patients, 197 participants needed chart review by expert clinicians:

- Medications (cholinesterase inhibitors, memantine, vitamin E)
- Neuroimaging studies
- Provider notes (inpatient and outpatient) +/- formal neuropsychological evaluation
- For 24 cases with limited data or lack of agreement, adjudicated by interdisciplinary expert panel until consensus was reached
Outcomes

• Used peak CAM-S categorically
  • Delirium incidence:
    • Persons with ADRD = 45%
    • Persons without ADRD = 19% (50/267)

• ADRD patients
  • 24% of cohort (85/352)
  • Higher peak CAM-S scores
Next steps

- We need a tool that better assesses delirium severity in ADRD patients!
  - External and local expert panels
  - DEL-S-AD

- We need to incorporate more ADRD patients into clinical studies
Thank you!

- Questions?

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