

Instrument	Family Confusion Assessment Method NOTE: This card is populated with information from the instrument's original validation study only.
Acronym	FAM-CAM
Core Domain	Delirium Screening
Area assessed (Number of questions)	Addresses 4 core features: Acute onset or fluctuating course; Inattention; Disorganized thinking; Altered level of consciousness 11 items
Description	The FAM-CAM is an informant-based screening instrument to heighten detection of delirium features by family members. It is designed to be used in conjunction with or confirmed by expert clinicians or trained assessors using the Confusion Assessment Method (CAM), and including further assessment and cognitive testing. It was originally developed to determine study eligibility for a largescale prospective cohort, and has a wide variety of research and clinical uses.
Versions	1
Scoring information	Each item pertains to a specific feature and is coded as positive or negative. The FAM-CAM is considered positive according to the CAM diagnostic algorithm: presence of acute onset or fluctuating course –AND- inattention -AND EITHER- disorganized thinking or altered level of consciousness.
Cognitive testing	Not needed
Estimated time to rate	5-10 mins
Require trained rater	Yes – trained lay raters or clinicians
Administer to	1. Caregiver who lives with the patient 2. Caregiver/informant who sees the patient at least once per month with regular phone contact in between and knows the patient well In-person, via telephone, email, or self-administered survey
How to obtain	Detailed instructions (registration required) at https://help.agscocare.org/
Licensing Fee*	None for non-profit or educational use
Languages available	English, Spanish, Portuguese
Highest COSMIN** rating	3.5/6 [†]
Test Performance Characteristics	Steis 2012 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Sensitivity/Specificity (of elements pertaining to original CAM algorithm administered by expert trained rater, compared to CAM 88% [95% CI 47-99%]/ 98% [95% CI 86-100%]; Kappa=0.85 [95% CI 0.65-1.00]) •Agreement with CAM (96%)

*Fees and licensing information is effective as of 2018, but is subject to change over time

** COSMIN is used to rate a study's evaluation of a survey or test's measurement properties. COSMIN does NOT rate the instrument itself, but helps readers understand if they can have confidence in the results of studies evaluating measurement properties of surveys and tests. For example, a rigorous study evaluating a test with poor measurement properties will receive a "good" COSMIN rating, while a poorly-conducted study evaluating a test with good measurement properties will receive a "poor" COSMIN rating. Small sample size can impact all COSMIN ratings. You must consider both the COSMIN rating and the results of studies provided when forming your opinion about that test. *COSMIN ratings shown are based solely on the instrument's original validation study.*

† COSMIN breakdown: content validity: GOOD, effect indicators: GOOD, internal consistency: NONE, inter-rater reliability: FAIR, construct validity: NONE, external validity: GOOD

Reference:

Steis MR, Evans L, Hirschman KB, Hanlon A, Fick DM, Flanagan N, Inouye SK. Screening for Delirium Using Family Caregivers: Convergent Validity of the Family Confusion Assessment Method (FAM-CAM) and Interviewer-Rated CAM. *J Am Geriatr Soc.* 2012; 60(11):2121-26. PMC3498543

Last updated on **August 13, 2021**. If you are aware of any updates required for this document, please notify us via nidus@hsl.harvard.edu.



This work was created by the NIDUS Measurement and Harmonization Core (Leaders Richard N. Jones, ScD and Dale M. Needham, MD, PhD), funded by NIA R24AG054259, and is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>. Requested citation: NIDUS-Network for Investigation of Delirium: Unifying Scientists, <https://deliriumnetwork.org/>

