PrimeWest Health Best Practice Guidelines For:
Mental Status Change

**Acute Mental Status Change**
- New or increased confusion/disorientation
- Decreased level of consciousness
- New or worsened physical and/or verbal agitation
- New or worsened delusions or hallucinations
- New or worsened severe depressed mood

**Take Vital Signs**
- Temperature
- Blood pressure (BP), pulse
- Respirations
- Oxygen saturation
- For those with diabetes:
  - Finger stick glucose

**Nursing Assessment**
- Danger to self or others?
- Suicidal ideation with plan?
- Not eating or drinking?
- Temp >100.5° F (>38.05° C)?
- Apical heart rate >130 or <50 bpm?
- Respiratory rate >28/min or <10/min?
- BP <90 or >210 systolic?
- Oxygen saturation <90%?
- For those with diabetes:
  - Finger stick glucose >400 or <70?
  - Other critical symptoms or signs?

**Consider Contacting MD/NP/PA for Orders for Lab Testing**
- Blood work
  - Complete blood count
  - Basic metabolic panel
- Others if indicated by symptoms/signs or risk factors (not all inclusive):
  - Chest X-ray
  - Urinalysis
  - EKG

**Evaluate Lab Results and Reassess**
- Critical lab values?
- Infiltrate or pneumonia on X-ray?
- Worsening clinical condition?

**Notify MD/NP/PA Immediately Consider Transfer to Acute Care Facility**

**Manage in Facility – Options**
- Monitor vital signs every 4 – 8 hours for 24 – 72 hours

**NOTIFY MD/NP/PA**