

Table 10-3: Assessing Changes in Mental Status

- Is the change acute? or chronic? What is the time frame for the change?
- Does the problem appear to be in thinking, attention, mood or behavior?
- What specific changes in function, or symptoms, are reported by patient or others that might give a clue to the particular problem?
- Are presenting symptoms accompanied by fever? pain? other signs of autonomic dysfunction?
- Are there any focal neurological signs or symptoms?
- Have any new medications been started recently, including antivirals, psychiatric medications?
- Is there evidence of substance use by a complete toxic screen or other report rather than the patient's own report?
- Are there pre-existing psychiatric symptoms?