## Behavioral/Psychiatric Crisis

For psychiatric crisis that is the primary problem. NOT for anxiety/agitation secondary to medical etiology, use primary impression related to medical issue

## History

- Situational crisis
- Psychiatric illness/medications
- Injury to self or threats to othersMedical alert tag
- Substance abuse/overdose
- Diabetes

- Signs and Symptoms
- Anxiety, agitation or confusion
- Affect change or hallucinations
- Delusional thoughts or bizarre behavior
- Expression of suicidal/homicidal thoughts
- Altered mental status

Differential

- Alcohol intoxication
- Toxin / substance abuse
- Medication effect/overdose
- Withdrawal symptoms
- Psychiatric (eg. Psychosis, Depression, Bipolar etc.)Hypoglycemia
- Consider, restraints Monitor restraints and PMS if indicated Ε Consider, external cooling measures Monitor and reassess Consider, blood glucose analysis Hypoglycemia Consider, cardiac monitor Hyperglycemia Consider, IV Exit to appropriate protocol, if indicated Assume patient has medical cause of behavioral change Altered Level of Consciousness Overdose/Poisoning/ Ingestion Trauma Notify receiving facility. **Consider Base Hospital for** medical direction

## Pearls

- Crew/responder safety is the main priority.
- Any patient who is handcuffed by Law Enforcement and to remain handcuffed and transported by EMS must be accompanied by Law Enforcement in the ambulance.
- All patients who receive physical restraint must be continuously observed by EMS personnel. This includes direct visualization of the patient as well as cardiac and pulse oximetry monitoring.
- Consider all possible medical/trauma causes for behavior (e.g., hypoglycemia, overdose, substance abuse, hypoxia, seizure, head injury, etc.).
- Do not overlook the possibility of associated domestic violence or child abuse.
- Do not position or transport any restrained patient in a way that negatively affects the patient's respiratory or circulatory status (e.g., hog-tied or prone). Do not place backboards, splints, or other devices on top of patient.
- If restrained, extremities that are restrained will have a circulation check at least every 15 minutes. The first of these checks should occur as soon after placement of the restraints as possible and shall be documented in the PCR.



## Treatment Protocol B01

**Effective April 2024**