

Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

A-11 PSYCHOLOGICAL BEHAVIORAL EMERGENCIES EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED PATIENTS

ALS/ILS/BLS/FR

- Management:
 - Assess scene and personal safety.
 - Call law enforcement personnel to scene if needed.
 - Do nothing to jeopardize your own safety.

- Special considerations:
 - Determine and document if patient is a threat to self or others, or if patient is unable to care or provide for self.
 - Protect patient from harm to self or others.
 - Do not touch mentally ill or emotionally disturbed patients without telling them your intent in advance.

- Verbally attempt to calm and/or reorient the patient to reality as able. Do not participate in the patient's delusions or hallucinations.

- If the patient is combative, use physical restraints as necessary per system Patient Restraint Policy.

- Consider etiologies of behavior disorder and treat according to appropriate system policy.
 - Hypoxia
 - Substance Abuse/Overdose
 - Neurologic Disease:
 - Head injury
 - CVA
 - etc.
 - Metabolic Conditions:
 - Hypoglycemia
 - Thyroid Disease
 - etc.

- Initiate medical care/treatment as the situation warrants.

- Contact medical control from the scene in situations where refusal of transport is being considered of for direction.