

Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

HH-1 PSYCHOLOGICAL/BEHAVIORAL EMERGENCIES EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED PATIENTS

ALS/ILS/BLS

1. Management:
 - 1.1. Assess scene and personal safety:
 - 1.1.1. Call law enforcement personnel to scene if needed.
 - 1.1.2. **Do nothing to jeopardize your own safety.**
 - 1.2. Special considerations:
 - 1.2.1. Determine and document if patient is a threat to self or others, or if patient is unable to care or provide for self.
 - 1.2.2. Protect patient from harm to self or other.
 - 1.2.3. Do not touch mentally ill or emotionally disturbed patient without telling them your intent in advance.
 - 1.3. Verbally attempt to calm and/or reorient the patient to reality as able.
 - 1.3.1. Do not participate in a patient's delusions or hallucinations.
 - 1.4. If patient is combative, use physical restraints as necessary:
 - 1.4.1. Refer to Use of physical Restraints (A-4) SOP.
 - 1.5. Consider etiologies of behavior disorder and treat according to appropriate SOP:
 - 1.5.1. Hypoxia.
 - 1.5.2. Substance Abuse/Overdose.
 - 1.5.3. Neurologic Disease (Head injury, CVA, etc.).
 - 1.5.4. Metabolic Conditions (Hypoglycemia, Thyroid Disease, etc.).
 - 1.6. Initiate medical care/treatment as situation warrants.
 - 1.7. Contact medical control from the scene in situations where refusal of transport is being considered or for direction.