

History

- Situational crisis
- Psychiatric illness/medications
- Injury to self or threats to others
- Medic alert tag
- Substance abuse / overdose
- Diabetes
- **SAMPLE**

Signs and Symptoms

- Anxiety, agitation, confusion
- Affect change, hallucinations
- Delusional thoughts, bizarre behavior
- Combative violent
- Expression of suicidal / homicidal thoughts

Differential

- **See Altered Mental Status differential**
- **Alcohol / Toxin / Substance Abuse**
- **Medication effect / overdose**
- **Withdrawal syndromes**
- **Depression**
- **Bipolar / Schizophrenia / Anxiety disorders**

Scene Safety



Universal Patient Care Protocol Routine Standard of Care



- Remove patient from stressful environment
- Use verbal calming techniques because
- communication is very important (reassurance, calm, establish rapport)
- GCS on all patients

Use appropriate protocol →

- **Altered Mental Status**
- **OD / Toxic Ingestion**
- **Head Trauma**
- **Sedation (Pain / Comfort Control)**



Check Glucose and treat per protocol

Crew safety concerns

Consider restraints (physical and chemical)

Pearls

- **Recommended Exam: Mental Status, Skin, Heart, Lungs, Neuro**
- Crew safety is first priority!!
- **Consider antipsychotics for patients with history of psychosis or a benzodiazepine for patients with presumed substance abuse.**
- Be sure to consider all possible medical/trauma causes for behavior (hypoglycemia, overdose, substance abuse, hypoxia, head injury, etc.)
- Do not irritate the patient with a prolonged exam.
- Do not overlook the possibility of associated domestic violence or child abuse.
- If patient is suspected of agitated delirium suffers cardiac arrest, consider a fluid bolus and sodium bicarbonate early.
- **All patients who receive either physical or chemical restraint must be continuously observed throughout transport.**
- Any patient who is handcuffed or restrained by Law Enforcement and transported by air must be accompanied by law enforcement in the aircraft.
- Do not position or transport any restrained patient in such a way that could impact the patients respiratory or circulatory status.