

# SAN FRANCISCO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY

Effective: 09/01/11  
Supersedes: 01/01/11

Protocol: P-054

## AGITATED / VIOLENT PATIENT - PEDIATRIC

### SUBJECTIVE FINDINGS

- Surroundings: Scene safety, informants or caregivers available, police on scene if necessary.
- Inciting event, patient's baseline status, medical complaint, caregivers' concerns.
- Medical history: psychiatric and medical problems, history of developmental disability, medications, and allergies.

### OBJECTIVE FINDINGS

- *Agitated or Violent Patient:* A patient who exhibits irrational, reckless, or aggressive behavior that endangers him/her or others.
- Vital signs including pulse oximetry.
- AVPU and neurological assessment.
- Signs of trauma.
- Pupil size and reactivity.
- Needle tracks.
- Medical information tags, bracelets or medallions.
- Blood glucose level.

BLS Treatment	ALS Treatment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ABCs, RMC</li><li>• Attempt verbal de-escalation, involve caregivers, utilize even vocal tone, and be aware of body language and threatening physical gestures.</li><li>• Consider physical restraints (4-point soft restraints with patient in supine position if possible) if patient continues to represent danger to self or others.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continuous cardiac and pulse oximetry monitoring</li><li>• <b>Midazolam:</b> Utilize SF EMS Agency approved pediatric dosage chart to determine correct weight-based dose. Maximum single dose is:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 2.5 mg slow IV push (may repeat once in 5" for a maximum dose of 5 mg) or</li><li>- 5 mg IM.</li></ul></li></ul>

### DOCUMENTATION

- Neurologic assessment documented.
- Blood glucose level results. Dextrose given

### PRECAUTIONS AND COMMENTS

- If the scene appears unsafe, law enforcement should be contacted.
- All patients should receive a primary and secondary assessment, pulse oximetry, and blood glucose level.
- Attempts at verbal de-escalation should be made before restraints are applied.

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- Physical restraints must not be placed in such a way as to preclude evaluation of the patient's medical status (e.g. airway, breathing, circulation), necessary patient care activities, or in any way jeopardize the patient. Circulation to the extremities (distal to physical restraints) should be evaluated frequently. If handcuffs are applied by law enforcement, a law enforcement officer shall accompany the patient in the ambulance.
- All patients receiving any form of chemical restraint must be closely and continuously monitored. Continuous cardiac monitoring and pulse oximetry should be applied.
- Midazolam may cause hypotension and decreased respiratory effort.
- The minimum physical or chemical restraint necessary to accomplish patient care and safe transportation should be utilized.
- The receiving facility should be informed if a patient receives a chemical restraint.

## ALGORITHM FOR EVALUATING AND MANAGING AGITATED PATIENTS

