

BEHAVIORAL EMERGENCIES

I. ASSESS SITUATION:

A. Evidence of immediate danger

1. Protect yourself and others.
2. Summon law enforcement.
3. Show of force utilizing law enforcement should be considered if indicated by patient behavior and if necessary to render care.
4. Assess and treat life-threatening injuries.
5. Additional assessment and treatment as situation permits.

B. No evidence of immediate danger

1. One EMT must take responsibility for assessing, treating and communicating with patient.
2. Obtain and record pertinent medical history if possible.
 - a) Prescription or non-prescription drugs.
 - b) Underlying organic cause, e.g., brain tumor, chemotherapy, hypoglycemia, hyperglycemia.
 - c) Previous psychiatric problems.

II. NOTES:

- A. One EMT must assume control of the situation. Multiple people attempting to intervene may increase patient's confusion and agitation.
- B. Speak in a calm, quiet voice. Move slowly when approaching and caring for patient.
- C. Approach the patient in a direct, honest manner.
- D. Use physical restraint only as directed by the EMS Agency Use of Restraints Policy.