

SAN FRANCISCO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY

Effective: 9/1/11
Supersedes: 1/1/11

Protocol: #054

AGITATED/VIOLENT PATIENT - PEDIATRIC

INFORMATION NEEDED

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

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.
- ◆ 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.

SAN FRANCISCO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY

Effective: 9/1/11

Supersedes: 1/1/11

Protocol: #054

- ◆ 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

