

Marquette County EMS Medical Control Authority

Psychiatric Emergencies Protocol

Part 1, Section 1
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I. Scene Management

- A. Assure scene is secure.
 - 1. Assure law enforcement agency has been notified.
 - 2. **If physical violence has occurred or if there is likelihood that the patient has access to a weapon, do not intervene.**
 - 3. All rescue personnel shall stay clear of the scene until secure.

II. Patient Assessment and Treatment

- A. Evaluate airway and maintain, provide oxygenation and support ventilation as needed.
- B. Assess and treat life-threatening injuries utilizing law enforcement assistance if necessary. Additional assessments and treatment may be provided only as the situation permits.
- C. The same EMS provider shall be responsible for assessing, treating, and communicating with the patient whenever possible.
- D. Obtain Patient's Current History:
 - a. Organic causes (hypoglycemia, brain tumor, chemotherapy, etc.)
 - b. Trauma causes (head injury, CNS, or hypoxia)
 - c. Other causes (current medications, previous psychiatric problems, overdose/intoxication, postictal state, etc.)
- E. If patient becomes violent or actions present a threat to patient's safety or that of others, restraint may be necessary.
- F. If a medical emergency, follow appropriate protocol.

CONTACT MEDICAL CONTROL

- G. *ALS LEVEL ONLY:* If chemical restraint is deemed necessary, administer midazolam 0.05 mg/kg to maximum of 10 mg IM.

III. Transporting Patient

- A. Obtain patient consent to transport to appropriate facility.
 - a. Transport in position of comfort with no lights/sirens unless indicated by severity of injuries.
- B. If patient refuses to consent to transport, obtain consent from responsible family member, advising them of the altered decision-making abilities of the patient.
 - a. If patient must be transported using physical restraints, do not attempt to restrain until sufficient manpower is available. *See Section IV, Part 2 below regarding PA 179 Section 20969.*
 - b. Physical restraints, where required, will be preferably soft in nature.
 - c. Do not release restraints until patient is transferred to hospital staff.

IV. Special Considerations

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A. **Definitions:**

1. **Protective Custody** - The temporary custody of an individual by a law enforcement officer with or without the individual's consent for the purpose of protecting the individual's health and safety, or the health and safety of the public and for the purpose of transporting the individual if the individual appears, in the judgment of the law enforcement officer, to be a person requiring treatment. Protective custody is civil in nature and is not to be construed as an arrest. (330.401, Sec. 410, Michigan Mental Health Code)

2. **Authority to Restrain** - EMS personnel are able to restrain and treat and transport an individual under authority of Sec 20969 of Public Act 179 which states: *"This part and the rules promulgated under this part do not authorize medical treatment for or transportation to a hospital of an individual who objects to the treatment or transportation. However, if emergency medical services personnel, exercising professional judgment, determine that the individual's condition makes the individual incapable of competently objecting to treatment or transportation, emergency medical services may provide treatment or transportation despite the individual's objections unless the objection is expressly based on the individual's religious beliefs."*

B. **Communication Skills:**

1. Keep calm; do not get angry with the patient.
2. Talk slowly, quietly and clearly to the patient; do not shout or threaten. Be honest with all information being provided to the patient.
3. Identify yourself and keep the patient constantly informed of what you are doing and why.
4. Use speech that is very simple, and in short statements.
5. You may have to repeat yourself since the patient's comprehension abilities may be reduced.
6. Note that a behavioral emergency can occur as a temporary condition in normally healthy individuals.

AUTHENTICATION AND APPROVAL

Marquette County EMS Medical Director
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Date