



Jackson Hole Fire/EMS Operations Manual

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Title: **Treatment Protocol:
Behavioral Emergencies**

Division: 17
Article: 4.26
Revised: May 2022
Pages: 2

BEHAVIORAL EMERGENCIES

Purpose:

- To establish guidelines for care of aggressive, threatening, or violent patients. Crew and patient safety is of critical importance.
- Confused or combative patients should be stabilized prior to transport with chemical and physical restraints as needed. If adequate control cannot be assured, the patient should not be transported by ambulance.

ALL PROVIDERS

- Prior to transfer, assess each patient for potential aggressive, threatening, or violent behavior.
- Assess the combative patient for possible etiologies, e.g., AEIOU-TIPS
- Consider use of physical restraints including: Soft restraints, leather restraints, canvas straps.
- If Law Enforcement has applied another restraint mechanism (i.e., handcuffs), then they must accompany the patient in the back of the ambulance during transport. Jointly with police, reposition patient with hands anterior and secured to the stretcher.
- Closely monitor the cardiorespiratory status of any patient being restrained.
- Patients may exhibit a combination of Behavioral Health Emergency symptoms including bizarre and/or aggressive behavior, shouting, paranoia, panic, violence toward others, unexpected physical strength, and/or hyperthermia.
- Consider chemical sedation for all restrained patients exhibiting ongoing resistance.
- Avoid prone, hobbled, or 'hog-tied' restraints.
- Consider securing one arm up and the opposite arm down.
- Other adjuncts to secure patient can be a Reeves-type stretcher, sheet wrap, etc.

ADULT EMT-BASIC PROVIDER

- Obtain blood glucose level and treat accordingly.

PEDIATRIC (<45 kg) EMT-BASIC PROVIDER

- Obtain blood glucose level and treat accordingly.

EMT-INTERMEDIATE PROVIDER

- **Diazepam** (voice order)
- Consider **Benadryl** (voice order)

EMT-INTERMEDIATE PROVIDER

- N/A

- Consider **Ketamine**
- Consider **Midazolam**
- Consider **Haldol**

- N/A

- Closely monitor the respiratory status of any patient receiving the above medications.
- Be prepared to manage airway.