

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
A Division of the Fresno County Department of Public Health

Manual:	Emergency Medical Services Administrative Policies and Procedures	Policy Number: 510.34 Page: 1 of 2
Subject:	Basic Life Support (BLS) Protocols BEHAVIORAL EMERGENCIES	
References:	California Administrative Code, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 2	Effective: 11/15/83

I. ASSESS SITUATION

A. Evidence of immediate danger

1. Protect yourself and others.
2. Summon law enforcement if needed.
3. Assess and treat life-threatening injuries.
4. Additional assessment and treatment as situation permits.

B. No evidence of immediate danger

1. One EMT or BLS personnel is responsible for assessing, treating and communicating with the patient and should remain with patient during transport as rendered care at the scene.
2. Obtain and record pertinent medical history if possible.
 - a. Prescription or nonprescription drugs.
 - b. Underlying organic cause, i.e., brain tumor, chemotherapy, hypoglycemia, and hyperglycemia.
 - c. Previous psychiatric problems.

II. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- A. One EMT or BLS personnel 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 a patient.

Approved By: EMS Division Manager	Daniel J. Lynch (Signature on File at EMS Agency)	Revision: 04/19/2005
EMS Medical Director	Jim Andrews, M.D. (Signature on File at EMS Agency)	

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- C. Approach the patient in a direct, honest manner.
- D. Use physical restraint only if necessary for the protection of yourself or the patient.
- E. If restraint of the patient is necessary, do not attempt to restrain until you have sufficient staffing in order to assure adequate protection to the rescuers and patient during the restraining process. If restraints have been applied, do not release until transfer at the hospital.
- F. The goal of full restraint is to restrict the movement of all four (4) extremities to protect the patient and others. Soft restraints or hard restraints with leather are acceptable. Handcuffs are for police use only.
- G. When applying physical restraint to a patient, care should be taken to restrain the patient in a manner, which allows for rapid and adequate airway maintenance. This can usually be accomplished by restraining the patient to a canvas stretcher or backboard, which is then placed on the gurney. This allows the patient to be logged rolled for airway control, as well as easing patient transfer at the hospital. If the patient must be restrained directly to the ambulance gurney, place the patient on his side in the “swimmer’s position.”

III. TRANSPORT

- A. With patient consent
 - 1. Transport patient in position of comfort if not contraindicated by injuries.
 - 2. Keep environment as quiet as possible. Do not use sirens unless indicated by injuries.