Behavioral Health Emergencies

1. Assure scene is secure.
2. Follow **General Pre-hospital Care-Treatment Protocol.**
3. Respect the dignity of the patient.
4. Treat known conditions such as hypoglycemia, hypoxia, or poisoning. Refer to appropriate protocol.
5. Patients experiencing behavioral health emergencies should be transported for treatment if they have any of the following:
    a. Can be reasonably expected to intentionally or unintentionally physically injure themselves or others or has engaged in acts or made threats to support the expectation.
    b. Are unable to attend to basic physical needs.
    c. Have judgement that is so impaired that he or she is unable to understand the need for treatment and whose behavior will cause significant physical harm.
    d. Have weakened mental processes because of age, epilepsy, alcohol or drug dependence which impairs their ability to make treatment decisions.
6. Communicate in a calm and nonthreatening manner. Be conscious of personal body language and tone of voice.
7. Keep contacts to a minimum; when prudent, utilize a single rescuer for assessment.
8. Offer your assistance to the patient.
9. Constantly monitor and observe patient to prevent injury or harm.
10. Control environmental factors; attempt to move patient to a private area. Maintain escape route.
11. Attempt de-escalation, utilize an empathetic approach. Avoid confrontation.
12. If patient becomes violent or actions present a threat to patient's safety or that of others, restraint may be necessary. Refer to **Patient Restraint- Procedure Protocol**.
13. If the patient is severely agitated, combative/aggressive, and shows signs of sweating, delirium, elevated temperature, and lack of fatiguing, refer to **Hyperactive Delirium Syndrome with Severe Agitation-Treatment Protocol**.

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 that 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. (330.1100c (7), Sec. 100c, Michigan Mental Health Code)