



South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS
Foundation Trust
Nexus House
Gatwick Road
Crawley
RH10 9BG

Email:foi@secamb.nhs.uk

Date 26th October 2018

Email:

Dear,

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/18/10/38.

You requested the following information, please also see our response below:

What is your policy in the management of patients with suspected or confirmed acute behavioural disorder?

Please see below:

Mental Health	
Behavioural Disturbance	
Acute Behavioural Disturbance (ABD) is a stressful event to witness and manage. The causes of ABD include; illness (such as UTI, head injury, hypo), drugs & alcohol (including withdrawal), psychiatric disorders (such as schizophrenia), and personality disorders. In younger patients it may be hard to distinguish between the causes, and personal safety must be a priority. It may be possible to manage ABD which hasn't escalated by seeking advice from local Mental Health service providers.	
Symptoms/Signs/Circumstances: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visual or auditory hallucinations• Exaggerated behaviour and movement• Confusion and disorientation• Paranoia• Violence	Red flags: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where the Police have become involved and are restraining the patient, attempt to elicit cause of behaviour and treat where possible• Where epilepsy or hypoglycaemia may be the cause, attempt to advocate for the patient• In serious ABD, patients can die from being held down by Police
Referral management: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mental health services may have a rapid response crisis team, or may be able to provide assistance of the phone• Contact the PP Desk or Clinical Supervisor for assistance• Consider conveyance to ED if unable to manage patient on-scene	Treatment: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Treat causes for altered behaviour where possible• Reassure the patient, police and other bystanders• Communicate in a calm, confident manner. Be aware of your personal safety

Does this have a separate policy or does this sit within your mental capacity policy?

This is covered within our Urgent Care Handbook and is used in conjunction with our Mental Capacity Act Policy

What triage category is assigned to a potential or confirmed ABD case, is this upgraded if the Police are present?

The Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) recognise the term “excited delirium” in the context of Section 136 cases, however as a default Section 136 receive a Category 2 response.

There is no specific procedure for handling of ABD. The triage outcome would be based on the information provided by the caller

I hope you find this information of some assistance.

If for any reason you are dissatisfied with our response, kindly in the first instance contact Caroline Smart, Information Governance Lead via the following email address:

FOI@secamb.nhs.uk

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Coordinator
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust