



Scoping Review – Template for Reporting for ANZCOR FA subcommittee – based on ILCOR template

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## Template for Scoping review

### ANZCOR Guideline 9.2.11 First Aid Management of The Agitated Person

#### Lead reviewer and other team members

Finlay Macneil, ?Tom Clark Red Cross

#### Conflict of Interest Declaration

None identified

#### Methodological Preamble and Link to Published Scoping Review

The continuous evidence evaluation process has been applied to this question. The first guideline published by ANZCOR on this subject in 2021 has been questioned by some teaching authorities in first aid and further evidence to inform a new guideline is needed

#### PICOST 1

##### The PICOST (Population, Intervention, Comparator, Outcome, Study Designs and Timeframe)

**Population:** Agitated persons (adults and children) out of hospital posing a danger to themselves or others)

**Intervention:** Any method of management or de-escalation available to lay person (not HCP).

**Comparators:** Any other method or none.

**Outcomes:** Improved mental state, reduced injury to themselves or others, reduced hospital admission rate. Improved risk to lay provider of this care.

**Study Designs:** Randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and non-randomized studies (non-randomized controlled trials, interrupted time series, controlled before-and-after studies, cohort studies) are eligible for inclusion. It is anticipated that there will be insufficient studies from which to draw a conclusion, hence case series may be included in the initial search. The minimum number of cases will be set by the lead author after discussion with the subcommittee. Grey literature and social media and non-peer reviewed studies, unpublished studies, conference abstracts and trial protocols are eligible for inclusion as well. All relevant publications in any language will be included as long as there is an English abstract.

**Timeframe:** All years

#### References previous guideline

1. New South Wales Health 2015, Management of patients with Acute Severe Behavioural Disturbance in Emergency Departments, viewed 15 March 2019, <[https://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/ActivePDSDocuments/GL2015\\_007.pdf](https://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/ActivePDSDocuments/GL2015_007.pdf)>
2. Iroku-Malize, T. & Grisson, M. The agitated patient: Steps to take, how to stay safe. *The Journal of Family Practice*. 2018 March; 67(3): 136-147.

3. Zeller S, Nordstrom K, Wilson M, The Diagnosis and management of Agitation. 2017 Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
4. Richmond JS, Berlin JS, Fishkind AB, et al. Verbal De-escalation of the Agitated Patient: Consensus Statement of the American Association for Emergency Psychiatry Project BETA De-escalation Workgroup. West J Emerg Med. 2012;13(1):17–25. doi:10.5811/westjem.2011.9.6864
5. Robyn L. Langlands, Anthony F. Jorm, Claire M. Kelly, and Betty A. Kitchener First aid recommendations for psychosis: using the Delphi method to gain consensus between mental health consumers, carers, and clinicians. Schizophr Bull. 2008 May;34(3):435-43.

## Search Strategies

Grey literature search. A search of guideline databases was conducted to identify Australian/New Zealand and international guidelines on the management of agitated patients. In addition to database searches individual Australian and New Zealand hospital and ambulance guidelines were searched using the terms “agitated patient”, “behavioural disturbance”, “agitation”, and “disturbed behaviour”

## Summary of evidence

### 1. Why this topic was reviewed.

This topic is increasingly included in the suite of first aid by major providers of first aid training, including Red Cross and St John. There are widely varying opinions on the scope of the first aid within ANZCOR and there is an urgent need for a proper literature review rather than expert opinion which varies widely as noted.

### 2. Narrative summary of evidence identified

The literature is mostly about de-escalation strategies in use by paramedics. Including the use of medications. However, there have been courses run by Red Cross since 2017 for lay person interventions as detailed in Kitchener B, Jorm A, Kelly C: Mental health first aid manual (Red Cross). 2017.

## Knowledge Gaps

- Efficacy of de-escalation techniques used by lay first aiders
- Which teaching techniques of de-escalation techniques work best for lay first aiders
- Persistence of de-escalation techniques in lay first aiders once taught in first aid courses

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## References

Organisation	Guideline name	File name
Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne	Acute Behavioural Disturbance: Acute Management	<a href="https://www.rch.org.au/clinicalguide/guideline_index/Acute_behavioral_disturbance_Acute_management/">https://www.rch.org.au/clinicalguide/guideline_index/Acute_behavioral_disturbance_Acute_management/</a>
NSW Health	Assessment and Management of Behaviours and Psychological	ass-mgmt-bpsd-handbook-dec-22_NSW Health.pdf

	Symptoms associated with Dementia (BPSD) A Handbook for NSW Health Clinicians providing services for people experiencing BPSD:	
NSW Health	Management of patients with Acute Severe Behavioural Disturbance in Emergency Departments	GL2015_007.pdf
WOREL	Guidelines for the treatment of emergency conditions in primary care.	WOREL.pdf
NICE National Institute for Health and Care Excellence	Violence and aggression: short-term management in mental health, health and community settings	NICE_Violence and aggression_short-term management in mental health, health and community settings.pdf
Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network	Risk reduction and management of delirium. A National Clinical Guideline: SIGN Evidence-based clinical guidelines	SIGN157.pdf
Ambulance Victoria	Acute Behavioural Disturbance Guideline CPG A0708	ALS and MICA Paramedics Clinical Practice Guidelines April 2024.pdf
NSW Ambulance	Behavioural disturbance Guideline CPG BD1	Behavioural Disturbance NSW Ambulance.pdf
SA Ambulance	Challenging Behaviour Guideline CPG-027-P	Challenging Behaviour CPG_027_P.pdf
St John Ambulance WA	Disturbed and abnormal Behaviour	<a href="https://clinical.stjohnwa.com.au/clinical-practice-guidelines/neurological/disturbed-abnormal-behaviour">https://clinical.stjohnwa.com.au/clinical-practice-guidelines/neurological/disturbed-abnormal-behaviour</a>
Ambulance Tasmania	Acute Behavioural Disturbance CPG A0708	Acute Behavioural Disturbance CPG Ambulance Tas.pdf
St John NT	Agitated patient guideline	St John NT CPGS.pdf
Queensland Ambulance	Behavioural disturbances/acute behavioural disturbance	Queensland Ambulance CPG 2022_DCPM_170622.pdf

NHS	DeliriumDiagnosis, Risk Reduction, and Management in Acute Services	v7-081-acute-delirium-guideline.pdf
UNM Health Science Center	Management of Acute Agitation in the Adult Emergency Department	adult-ed-agitation-guideline.pdf

**1. Articles**

2. Roppolo LP, Morris DW, Khan F, Downs R, Metzger J, Carder T, Wong AH, Wilson MP. Improving the management of acutely agitated patients in the emergency department through implementation of Project BETA (Best Practices in the Evaluation and Treatment of Agitation). *J Am Coll Emerg Physicians Open*. 2020 Jul 3;1(5):898-907. doi: 10.1002/emp2.12138. Erratum in: *J Am Coll Emerg Physicians Open*. 2023 Jun 22;4(3):e13002. PMID: 33145538; PMCID: PMC7593430.
3. Cottrill FA, Bond KS, Blee FL, Kelly CM, Kitchener BA, Jorm AF, Reavley NJ. Offering mental health first aid to a person experiencing psychosis: a Delphi study to redevelop the guidelines published in 2008. *BMC Psychol*. 2021 Feb 12;9(1):29. doi: 10.1186/s40359-021-00532-7. PMID: 33579387; PMCID: PMC7881488.
4. Nambiar, D., Pearce, J.W., Bray, J., Stephenson, M., Nehme, Z., Masters, S., Brink, D., Smith, K., Arends, G., Fatovich, D., Bernard, S., Haskins, B., Grantham, H. and Cameron, P. (2020), Variations in the care of agitated patients in Australia and New Zealand ambulance services. *Emergency Medicine Australasia*, 32: 438-445. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1742-6723.13431>
5. Langlands R, Jorn A, Kelly C, Kitchener B: First aid recommendations for psychosis: using the Delphi method to gain consensus between mental health consumers, carers, and clinicians. *Schizophren Bull*. 2008, 34:435-443. 10.1093/schbul/sbm099