

Priority Topic: VIOLENT PATIENT

Key Features:

see also [Priority Topic Difficult Patient](#)

I strongly recommend the EM Cases Podcast for this topic, it's excellent!

1. In certain patient populations (e.g., intoxicated patients, psychiatric patients, patients with a history of violent behaviour):
 - a) [Anticipate possible violent](#) or aggressive behaviour.
 - b) Recognize [warning signs](#) of violent/aggressive behaviour.
 - c) Have a [plan of action](#) before assessing the patient (e.g., stay near the door, be accompanied by security or other personnel, prepare physical and/or chemical restraints if necessary).

What you should study:

- ✓ [EM Cases Episode 51: Effective Patient Communication - Managing Difficult Patients](#)

2. In all violent or aggressive patients, including those who are intoxicated, [rule out underlying medical or psychiatric conditions](#) (e.g., hypoxemia, neurologic disorder, schizophrenia) in a timely fashion (i.e., don't wait for them to sober up, and realize that their calming down with or without sedation does not necessarily mean they are better).

What you should study:

- ✓ [Managing Aggressive/Violent Patients AP 2011](#)
- ✓ [EM Cases Episode 51: Effective Patient Communication - Managing Difficult Patients](#)

3. In a violent or aggressive patient, [ensure the safety](#) (including appropriate restraints) of the patient and staff [before assessing the patient](#).

What you should study:

- ✓ [Management of the Acutely Violent Patient Psych 2005](#)

4. In managing your practice environment (e.g., office, emergency department), [draw up a plan](#) to deal with patients who are verbally or physically aggressive, and ensure your staff is aware of this plan and able to apply it.

What you should study: couldn't find a good source for this....

- ✓ [How to deal with Violent and Aggressive Patients in Acute Medical Settings](#)