

## Mental Health Algorithm for Transfer

Patient Presents to Community Hospital  
with a Mental Health Issue

Immediate Risk of Self-Harm??

No

Yes

Consult to  
appropriate service  
as per hospital policy

Safety isolation per hospital  
policy and assess need for  
chemical and/or physical  
restraints

Consult to Psychiatrist on  
call and anticipate transfer

Patient may be  
transferred by  
private vehicle

Chemical sedation per  
provided guidelines

**Sedation Ineffective**  
Transfer via EMS with  
RCMP and/or Sherriff  
Support

**Sedation Effective:**  
Transfer via EMS  
without support

**Sedation Ineffective with NO RCMP/Sheriff  
Support:**  
Use Ketamine IM/IV drip as last resort (see  
guidelines)  
Nurse (+/- Respiratory Therapy) to accompany  
Smallest dose and titrate to effect  
Patient to transfer to ED of receiving facility for  
observation until fully alert and then re-evaluation  
by psychiatrist

### Chemical Restraints Guidelines

#### **Cooperative** (oral route preferred)

Olanzapine wafer/tablet 5-10mg po

Lorazepam 2mg po (repeated to a  
maximum of 8mg)

**Note: Can give combination of above**

#### **Uncooperative:**

Halperidol 5mg with Lorazepam 2mg IM  
**OR**

Olanzapine 5-10mg IM  
**OR**

Halperidol 5-10mg IM (can repeat x 1)  
**OR**

Midazolam 5mg IM (can repeat x 1)

#### **Danger to safety of self/staff**

Ketamine 2-4mg/Kg IM **followed by**  
Ketamine IV 1-2mg/Kg boluses as  
required (Use smallest possible dose for  
sedative effect without intubation)