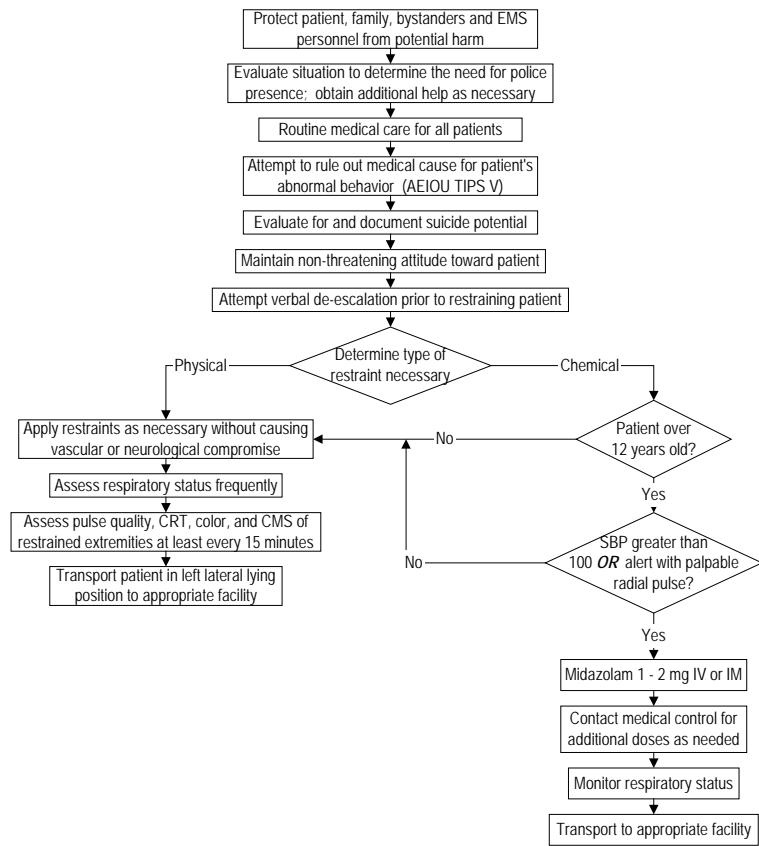


Initiated: 2/22/96
Reviewed/revised: 5/16/07
Revision: 4

**MILWAUKEE COUNTY EMS  
STANDARD OF CARE  
PATIENT RESTRAINT**

Approved by: Ronald Pirrallo, MD, MHSA
Signature:
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**NOTES:**

- Use the least restrictive or invasive method of restraint necessary.
- Chemical restraint may be less restrictive and more appropriate than physical restraint in some situations
- Documentation of need for restraint must include:
  - Description of the circumstances/behavior which precipitated the use of restraint
  - A statement indicating that patient/significant others were informed of the reasons for the restraint and that its use was for the safety of the patient/bystanders
  - A statement that no other less restrictive measures were appropriate and/or successful
  - The time of application of the physical restraint device
  - The position in which the patient was restrained and transported
  - The type of restraint used
- Physical restraint equipment applied by EMS personnel must be padded, soft, allow for quick release, and may not interfere with necessary medical treatment.
- Spider and 9-foot straps may be used to restrain a patient in addition to the padded soft restraints.
- Restrained patients may NOT be transported in the prone position.
- EMS providers may NOT use:
  - Hard plastic ties or any restraint device which requires a key to remove
  - Backboard or scoop stretcher to "sandwich" the patient
  - Restraints that secure the patient's hands and feet behind the back ("hog-tie")
  - Restraints that interfere with assessment of the patient's airway.
- For physical restraint devices applied by law enforcement officers:
  - The restraints and position must provide sufficient slack in the device to allow the patient to straighten the abdomen and chest to take full tidal volume.
  - Restraint devices may not interfere with patient care.
  - An officer must be present with the patient AT ALL TIMES at the scene as well as in the patient compartment of the transport vehicle during transport
- Side effects of midazolam may include respiratory depression, apnea, and hypotension.