FOUNDATIONS OF DISCIPLINE #6: ASSESS AND MANAGE AGITATION AND AGGRESSION

Short Description:
The Learner is able to assess and manage acute agitation and aggression in a psychiatric setting.

Assessment Plan Summary:
- Learner should gain competence in the identification, assessment, and management of acute aggression, both individually and in a team setting, incorporating the local mechanisms to address safety issues.

Milestones:

Assess an agitated patient and construct a broad differential diagnosis, including psychiatric and non-psychiatric causes.
1. Construct a differential diagnosis
2. Identify salient risk factors for aggression
3. Link mental status findings to risk of aggression
4. Recognize and investigate toxidromes and medical causes of agitation
5. Interpret laboratory and radiographic results

Create a safe environment for the patient, self, and team
1. Be aware of positioning in the room
2. Bring appropriate support
3. Maintain easy access to means of egress
4. Be aware of local mechanisms to summon help when required
5. Be aware of sharps and other items that could be used as weapons
6. Use de-escalation and other non-pharmacological strategies to promote safety
7. Recognize the impact of the interventions on the patient

Implement a comprehensive pharmacologic management plan for agitation and aggression
1. Select appropriate acute pharmacological interventions and route of administration
2. Write orders for chemical and mechanical restraints and associated monitoring protocols
3. Recognize and manage side effects

Collaborate with an interprofessional health care team to manage agitation (e.g. code white)
1. Explain and use local safety mechanisms
2. Communicate clearly with security team
3. Participate in running a Code White with an awareness of the roles of all team members
4. Participate in a team debrief

Scope: Adult in simulation, emergency department, or inpatient unit