



Clinical Practice Procedures: Assessment/Sedation Assessment Tool (SAT)

Policy code	CPP_AS_SAT_1017
Date	October, 2017
Purpose	To ensure a consistent procedural approach to undertaking the Sedation Assessment Tool (SAT).
Scope	Applies to Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) clinical staff.
Health care setting	Pre-hospital assessment and treatment.
Population	Applies to all ages unless stated otherwise.
Source of funding	Internal – 100%
Author	Clinical Quality & Patient Safety Unit, QAS
Review date	October, 2020
Information security	UNCLASSIFIED – Queensland Government Information Security Classification Framework.
URL	https://ambulance.qld.gov.au/clinical.html

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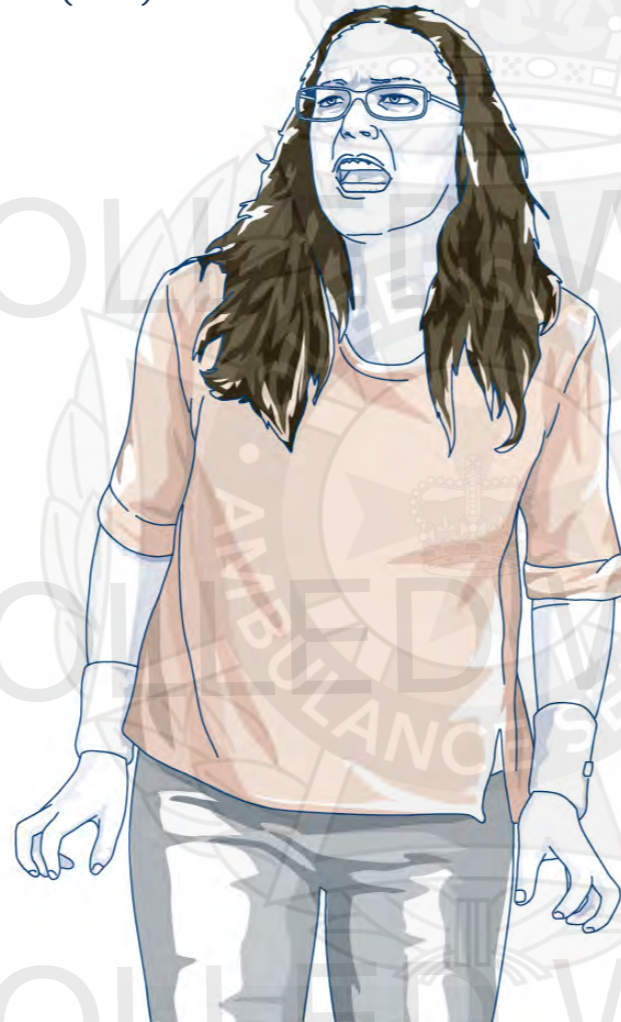
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Sedation Assessment Tool (SAT)

October, 2017



The **Sedation Assessment Tool (SAT)**^[2] is a simple, rapid and useful scale used to measure the degree of agitation or sedation of patients with acute behavioural disturbance (ABD).



The purpose of the SAT is to determine the patient's level of agitation and response to medication administration and resultant level of sedation.

Indications

- A SAT is required for all patients with ABD prior to and at regular intervals following sedation and should complement the patient's standard vital sign survey.

Contraindications

- Nil in this setting

Complications

- Nil in this setting

It is determined by assessing two objective descriptors based on responsiveness and speech and allocating a score derived from a 7-point scale (+3 to -3).

Procedure – Sedation Assessment Tool (SAT)

1. Using the patient's responsiveness and speech as described in the table below identify the SAT score.
2. Allocate the appropriate SAT score (+3 to -3) by determining the highest ranking (for example a patient displaying very anxious and agitated behaviour but who speaks normally will receive a score of +2).
3. Following the delivery of any sedative medication, the patient must be regularly assessed (every 5 mins) and have documentation of the SAT score as well as standard vital signs (GCS, HR, BP, SpO₂, RR) on the eARF.
4. Any airway adjuncts/manoeuvres or requirement for supplemental oxygen must be documented on the treatment and free text section of the eARF.

Additional information

- A SAT score of +2 or +3 is a good predictor of the need to administer sedation.
- The documentation of **regular** SAT scores is mandatory for all patients presenting with ABD.

SEDATION ASSESSMENT TOOL^[1]

Score	Responsiveness	Speech
+3	Combative, violent, out of control	Continual loud outbursts
+2	Very anxious and agitated	Loud outbursts
+1	Anxious/restless	Normal/talkative
0	Awake and calm/cooperative	Speaks normally
-1	Asleep but rouses if name is called	Slurring or prominent slowing
-2	Responds to physical stimulation	Few recognisable words
-3	No response to stimulation	Nil