

### SAQ 3

A 45 yr old male has been brought to your Emergency Department by ambulance. He has been allegedly assaulted and has sustained a head injury and laceration with a period of LOC.

He has declined to have observations performed and wishes to leave the Emergency Department.

#### **a. Essential elements of competency required to consent to, or refuse treatment ? (4 Marks)**

*1 Mark each for:*

- Ability to maintain and communicate a choice*
- Ability to understand the relevant information*
- Ability to appreciate the situation and it's consequences*
- Ability to manipulate the information in a rational fashion*

*Taken from:*

*Textbook of Adult Emergency Medicine, Cameron, 3rd Edition, Chp 25.3*

*Consent to Treatment Policy for the Western Australian Health System 2011, 3rd Edition*

#### **b. The ambulance crew tell you the patient was assessed by the police at the scene of the alleged assault. He undertook a breath alcohol test, the result of which was 0.18%. The patient is becoming increasingly agitated and wishes to leave. Outline your management of this situation. (4 Marks)**

*1/2 Mark each for:*

- Ensure staff safety*
- Statement on capacity - either establish or acknowledge BAL + HI precludes capacity*
- Attempt verbal de-escalation - this must occur before physical or chemical restraint to gain mark*

*1/2 Mark to maximum of 2.5 marks i.e. any 5 points from below in a logical order :*

- If considered significant risk to staff e.g. armed then allow to leave and engage police assistance to return patient*
- If failed verbal de-escalation for sedation and / or physical restraint (1/2 Mark for each)*
- Manage in a Resuscitation / High-acuity area*
- Team / co-ordinated approach - involving security +/- police*
- Serial observations and repeat clinical assessment*
- If plan for sedation must have CT head*
- Wound assessment / closure*
- ADT*
- Thiamine / AWS if Hx ETOH XS*
- Discharge planning once sober*
- Documentation and notification of NOK*

#### **c. Which patient groups may be unable to consent ? (2 Marks)**

*1/2 mark each to maximum of 2 marks from:*

- Children*
- Intellectually impaired*
- Dementia / Alzheimer's*
- Mentally ill*
- Drug / alcohol affected*
- Critically unwell patient's*

*Facem trial written Set 3*

*Taken from Textbook of Adult Emergency Medicine, Cameron, 3rd Edition, Chp 25.3*