

## **Acute Severe Behavioural Disturbance (ASBD) in the Adult Patient.**

Acute Severe Behavioural Disturbance (ASBD) can occur at any time in any health care setting, risking both staff and patient safety, presenting significant clinical challenges.

ASBD is generally multifactorial and may include components of a general medical or surgical conditions, medication side effects, substance intoxication or withdrawal, a mental health condition or a developmental disorder.

It requires a rapid assessment and response despite limited availability of clinical information in patients who may be actively resisting treatment. If de-escalation interventions fail clinicians must quickly choose an appropriate sedative agent and must be skilled at monitoring the sedated patient and anticipated complications. The evidence base for treatment protocols for ASBD is evolving and guidelines vary across jurisdictions around the world, but all clinicians should be able to apply both behavioural and pharmacological techniques to reduce a patient's agitation, identify the risks associated with emergency sedation and manage any complications that may arise.

The ASBD master class has been designed to learn the skill for safe care of patients in health care facilities for acute behavioural disturbance. The core component of the master class covers the clinical skills required for safe sedation and management of patients. It's unique and differs from the many widely available courses which teach behavioural and environmental interventions to manage behavioural disturbance and aggression in the healthcare setting.