

## Alcohol withdrawal

### Symptoms and signs of alcohol withdrawal include:

- Anxiety/agitation/irritability
- Sweating
- Fever, with or without infection
- Tremor of hands, tongue, eyelids
- Tachycardia
- Nausea/vomiting/retching
- Anorexia

**Consider is this patient at risk of withdrawal seizure? If so seek urgent Doctor review.**

- 1) Fully undress, apply a gown and wrist band
- 2) Record vital signs: BP, HR, RR, SpO<sub>2</sub>, Temp, GCS, BM  
Commence Observation Chart and Early Warning Score - follow ED Escalation Plan
- 3) Cannulate and complete VIPS
- 4) Take bloods: FBC, UE, LFTs, Clotting, alcohol level
- 5) If time permits seek prescription for IV Pabrinex and oral chlordiazepoxide  
**NOTE: All alcohol dependent patients presenting to the emergency department should receive IV Pabrinex**
- 6) If time permits offer patient Alcohol Withdrawal Pamphlet with contact telephone number for alcohol liaison team

***Any tasks NOT completed within IAU should be handed over verbally to the team and placed on NURSE ORDERS***