AGITATION ALGORITHM

A structured approach to managing agitation
Use the following decision-making algorithm to help work out why a patient may be agitated, and initiate the most appropriate management.

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Assess agitated patient

Perform Behavioural Pain Score
a. Is patient in pain? — **YES** → a. Administer bolus of analgesic. Review with medical team
b. Is patient in discomfort? — **YES** → b. Think about bowel elimination. Refer to the bowel management protocol

NO ↓

Perform CAM-ICU. Is the patient delirious? — **YES** → Refer to delirium protocol. Consider pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatments

NO ↓

Is patient dyssynchronized with the ventilatior? — **YES** → Review mode of ventilation with the medical team

NO ↓

Is the patient known to have a substance abuse history and/or could patient be suffering from effects of drug withdrawal? — **YES** → Review with medical team

NO ↓

Is patient anxious? — **YES** → Provide reassurance and consider an anxiolytic drug

If patient remains agitated:
1. Review their current sedative regime with the medical staff
2. Write up a sedation plan

DESIST