

Role: Bedside nurse (RN)

You are a nurse on the inpatient pediatric acute care ward. You are assigned to a 15-year-old teenage boy who was admitted from the unaccompanied minor migrant shelter. Apparently, he was bashing his head against the wall and then fell and started convulsing. They brought him to the emergency room and admitted him to work him up for any medical issues, including a traumatic brain injury and a seizure disorder. They think he might be autistic. Either way, you don't speak Spanish.

When you received hand off on the patient and went to do your initial assessment, he became immediately dysregulated and aggressive. He started jumping up and down and you thought he was going to attack you. He's about a foot taller than you are. You called a security code and guards came and restrained him. The physicians finally arrived and prescribed an intramuscular sedative. Now he's calm and asleep in his bed, but you are not comfortable with this assignment and think the patient should be transferred to the PICU to receive continuous sedation while they continue to medically clear him.

This exercise begins with you, the pediatric hospitalist, a psychiatrist, and the pediatric intensivist calling the patient's sibling over the phone. (In the real world you would be calling through an interpreter.) The team will explain to the sibling what is happening and what they plan on doing next. Then they will hang up and you will all talk amongst yourselves. At that point, you should insist that you are uncomfortable with the patient on the floor and that the patient should be transferred to the PICU for continuous sedation.