Appendix 2

RAPID TRANQUILISATION ALGORITHM

Patient exhibiting behaviour likely to cause physical harm or psychological distress to themselves or physical harm to others.

Does patient have mental capacity to understand and desist from behaviour?

Ask patient to desist from behaviour. Call hospital security staff or police if uncompliant.

If appropriate, warn patient that tranquillisation may be required to control behaviour

Have O₂ and Flumazenil at hand. Check drug chart, allergies and contraindications.

Seek senior or anaesthetic opinion for alternative methods of tranquillisation

Administer 2mg of Lorazepam (1mg to very elderly) orally (may be disguised)

Administer 2mg of Lorazepam (1mg to very elderly) IM at any conventional site for IM injection

Administer further 1mg of lorazepam using IV route if available or by previous route if IV not available

Behaviour not controlled after 3mg lorazepam?

YES

NO

CONTRAINDICATIONS

NONE

Be behaviour remains uncontrolled after 60 min after PO, 15 min after IV or 30 min after IM administration?

YES

NO

Labour

Document episode. Investigate underlying cause. Complete incident form if tranquillisation administered by any route