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, SpO₂, 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

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