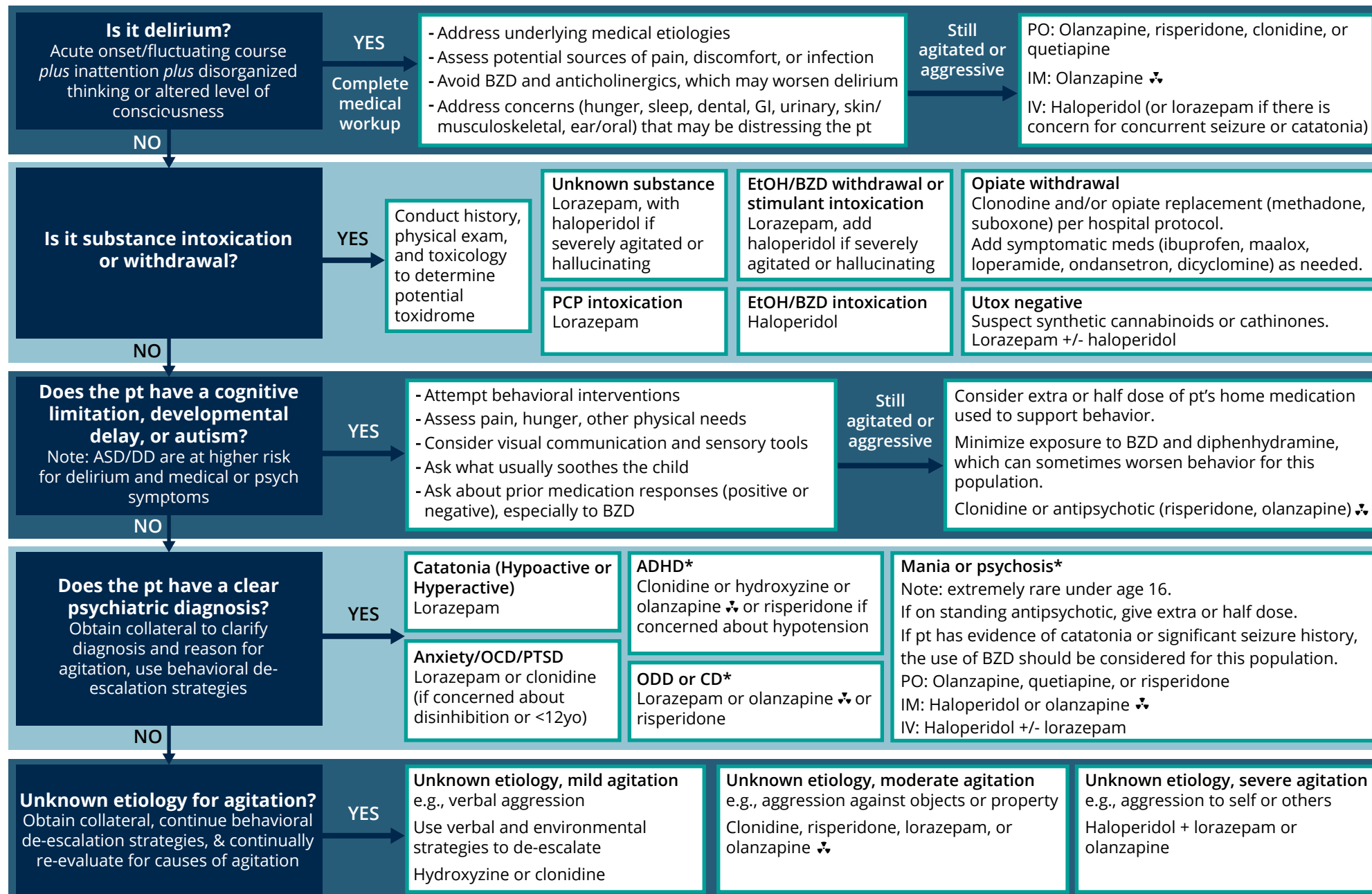


# Pediatric Psychopharmacology Clinical Decision Flowchart for Acute Behavioral Escalation Management



**Note:** Use intramuscular (IM) route only when patient cannot or will not take PO, IV access is not available, and the severity/acuity of behavior warrants rapid action.

\* For these etiologies, in absence of consensus, medication options are listed alphabetically.

⚡ Do not give olanzapine and benzodiazepines within one hour of each other.

PO = by mouth; IM = intramuscular; IV = intravenous; NGT = nasogastric tube; EtOH = ethanol; Utox = urine toxicology; PCP = phencyclidine; EPS = extra pyramidal symptoms; ASD = autism spectrum disorder; DD = developmental disability; BZD = benzodiazepines; ODT = orally dissolving tablet; PTSD = post traumatic stress disorder; ADHD = attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder; ODD = oppositional defiant disorder; CD = conduct disorder; pt = patient.

**This resource has been adapted from the following source:** Gerson, R., Malas, N., Feuer, V., Silver, G. H., Prasad, R., & Mroczkowski, M. M. (2019). Best Practices for Evaluation and Treatment of Agitated Children and Adolescents (BETA) in the Emergency Department: Consensus Statement of the American Association for Emergency Psychiatry. The western journal of emergency medicine, 20(2), 409–418. <https://doi.org/10.5811/westjem.2019.1.41344>