

Subject: Treatment Guidelines – ALS Personnel
ALTERED LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS
Acute Cerebrovascular Accident, Syncope/Near Syncope, Coma of Unknown Origin

Associated Policies: 5306, 5311, 5323, 5334, 5432 (Replaces Policies 6517 and 6518)

- I. Priorities
 - A. ABC's.
 - B. Attempt to determine which cause of altered mental status best fits the patient's signs, symptoms and history (e.g. history of diabetes, depression, fever, drug use, daily medications, etc.).
 - C. Drug therapy indicated. Naloxone and Dextrose administration when narcotic overdose or hypoglycemia.
 - D. Identify and document neurological deficits.
 - E. Transport Code 3, if unconsciousness, unmanageable airway, deteriorating vital signs, or increasing neurological deficits. If stable or improving, Code 2.
- II. Non-Diabetic Coma/Altered LOC

Pediatric note: Drug doses listed are for adults. Refer to a pediatric length based tape for appropriate drug concentrations and dosages, defibrillator energy settings, and equipment sizes.

Skills and procedures denoted by double asterisks (**) paramedic level only.

 - A. Glasgow Coma Scale Less Than Fifteen (15), Etiology Unclear:
 - 1. Position patient in upright position, if gag reflex intact; left lateral recumbent, if altered gag reflex.
 - 2. Oxygen - high flow as tolerated. Be prepared to support ventilations with appropriate airway adjuncts.
 - 3. Cardiac Monitor.
 - 4. IV access TKO (wide open, if in shock). (Blood draw for labs.)
 - 5. Determine blood glucose.
 - 6. Contact base hospital.
 - 7. Dextrose IVP, if hypoglycemia is suspected:
 - a. Adult: 25 Gm Dextrose 50% IVP.
 - b. Pediatric: 1-2 Gm/kg Dextrose 25% IVP.
 - c. Neonate: Contact base hospital.
 - 8. ** Consider Glucagon 1.0mg IM, if unable to establish IV access and suspect hypoglycemia.
 - 9. Naloxone 0.4-2.0 per dose IVP, IM, or Nasal (Pediatric - 0.01mg/kg.) if narcotic overdose is suspected and respiratory and/or cardiovascular compromise is noted. (Avoid inducing narcotic withdrawal in patients who may be narcotic dependant).

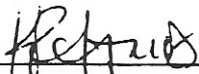
Subject: Medical Direction
Advanced Life Support Treatment Guidelines
Neurologic Emergencies:
Non-Diabetic Coma/ Altered Level of Consciousness

Associated Policies: 5306, 5311, 5323, 5334, 5432

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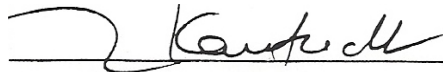
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10. Consider fluids if suspected shock, DKA or sepsis.

Approved: _____



Date: 11-18-09

Approved as to Form: _____
Revised: 11-18-09



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