### Treatment Protocol: ALTERED LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS (ALOC)

Ref. No. 1229

## Base Hospital Contact: Required for persistent ALOC of unclear etiology.

- 1. Assess airway and initiate basic and/or advanced airway maneuvers prn (MCG 1302)
- 2. Administer Oxygen prn (MCG 1302)
- 3. Assess level of consciousness per MCG 1320
- 4. Initiate cardiac monitoring (MCG 1308)
  Perform 12-lead ECG if cardiac ischemia suspected and treat in conjunction with TP 1211, Cardiac Chest Pain
- 5. Establish vascular access (MCG 1375)
- 6. Check blood glucose
  If < 60mg/dL or > 400mg/dL, treat in conjunction with TP 1203, Diabetic Emergencies
- 7. For poor perfusion (MCG 1355):

# Normal Saline 1L IV rapid infusion

Reassess after each 250mL increment for evidence of volume overload (pulmonary edema); stop infusion if pulmonary edema develops

For persistent poor perfusion, treat in conjunction with TP 1207, Shock/Hypotension

- 8. Assess for signs of trauma If traumatic injury suspected, treat in conjunction with *TP 1244, Traumatic Injury*
- Perform mLAPSS
   If stroke is suspected, treat per TP 1232, Stroke/CVA/TIA
- 10. For suspected drug overdose or alcohol intoxication, treat in conjunction with *TP 1241, Overdose/Poisoning/Ingestion* ②
- 11. For suspected carbon monoxide exposure, treat in conjunction with *TP 1238, Carbon Monoxide Exposure*
- 12. **CONTACT BASE** if the etiology of the ALOC remains unclear

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#### **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- Consider all causes of ALOC using a mnemonic AEIOUTIPS:
  - A Alcohol, abuse, atypical migraine
  - **E** Epilepsy, electrolytes
  - I Insulin (hypoglycemia)
  - **O** Oxygen, overdose
  - **U** Uremia (kidney failure)
  - **T** Trauma, tumor
  - I Infection
  - P Psych, poisoning
  - **S** Seizure, Subarachnoid hemorrhage, Sepsis, Stroke

Once the cause for ALOC is determined, switch to the more specific protocol.

2 Consider narcotic overdose for patients with hypoventilation (bradypnea), and pinpoint pupils, drug paraphernalia, or strong suspicion of narcotic use.

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