



- b. Neck
 - i. Jugular venous distension
 - ii. Tracheal position
 - iii. Spinal tenderness
- c. Chest
 - i. Retractions
 - ii. Breath sounds
 - iii. Chest wall tenderness, deformity, crepitus, and excursion
 - iv. Respiratory pattern, symmetry of chest movement with respiration
- d. Abdomen/Back
 - i. Tenderness or bruising
 - ii. Abdominal distension, rebound, or guarding
 - iii. Spinal tenderness, crepitus, or step-offs
 - iv. Pelvic stability or tenderness
- e. Extremities
 - i. Pulses
 - ii. Edema
 - iii. Deformity/crepitus
- f. Neurologic
 - i. Mental status/orientation
 - ii. Motor/sensory
- g. Evaluate for medical equipment (e.g., pacemaker/defibrillator, left ventricular assist device (LVAD), insulin pump, dialysis fistula)
- 8. Obtain baseline vital signs (an initial full set of vital signs is required: pulse, blood pressure, respiratory rate, neurologic status assessment and obtain pulse oximetry if indicated)
 - a. Neurologic status assessment [See [Appendix VII. Neurologic Status Assessment](#)] involves establishing a baseline and then trending any change in patient neurologic status
 - i. Glasgow Coma Score (GCS) is frequently used, but there are often errors in applying and calculating this score. With this in consideration, a more simple field approach may be as valid as GCS. Either AVPU or only the motor component of the GCS may more effectively serve in this capacity
 - ii. Sternal rub as a stimulus is discouraged
 - b. Patients with cardiac or respiratory complaints
 - i. Pulse oximetry
 - ii. 12-lead electrocardiogram (EKG) should be obtained promptly in patients with cardiac or suspected cardiac complaints
 - iii. Continuous cardiac monitoring, if available
 - iv. Consider waveform capnography for patients with respiratory complaints (essential for critical patients and those patients who require invasive airway management)
 - c. Patient with altered mental status
 - i. Check blood glucose. If low, go to [Hypoglycemia Guideline](#)
 - ii. Consider waveform capnography (essential for critical patients and those patients who require invasive airway management) or digital capnometry
 - d. Stable patients should have at least two sets of pertinent vital signs. Ideally, one set should be taken shortly before arrival at receiving facility
 - e. Critical patients should have pertinent vital signs frequently monitored