



Universal Care

Universal Care Guideline

Aliases

Patient assessment
Primary survey

Patient history
Secondary survey

Physical assessment

Patient Care Goals

Facilitate appropriate initial assessment and management of any EMS patient and link to appropriate specific guidelines as dictated by the findings within the **Universal Care** guideline

Patient Presentation

Inclusion Criteria

All patient encounters with and care delivery by EMS personnel

Exclusion Criteria

None

Patient Management

Assessment

1. Assess scene safety
 - a. Evaluate for hazards to EMS personnel, patient, bystanders
 - b. Safely remove patient from hazards prior to beginning medical care
 - c. Determine number of patients
 - d. Determine mechanism of injury or potential source of illness
 - e. Request additional resources if needed and weigh the benefits of waiting for additional resources against rapid transport to definitive care
 - f. Consider declaration of mass casualty incident if needed
2. Use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - a. Consider suspected or confirmed hazards on scene
 - b. Consider suspected or confirmed highly contagious infectious disease (e.g., contact [bodily fluids], droplet, airborne)
3. Wear high-visibility, retro-reflective apparel when deemed appropriate (e.g., operations at night or in darkness, on or near roadways)
4. Consider cervical spine stabilization and/or spinal care if traumatic injury suspected. [See [Spine Care Guideline](#)]
5. Primary survey
(**A**irway, **B**reathing, **C**irculation (**ABC**) is cited below; although there are specific circumstances where **C**irculation, **A**irway, **B**reathing (**CAB**) may be indicated, such as for cardiac arrest, or **M**assive hemorrhage, **A**irway, **R**espirations, **C**irculation, **H**ypothermia and head injury (**MARCH**) may be indicated for trauma or major arterial bleeding)