

- 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