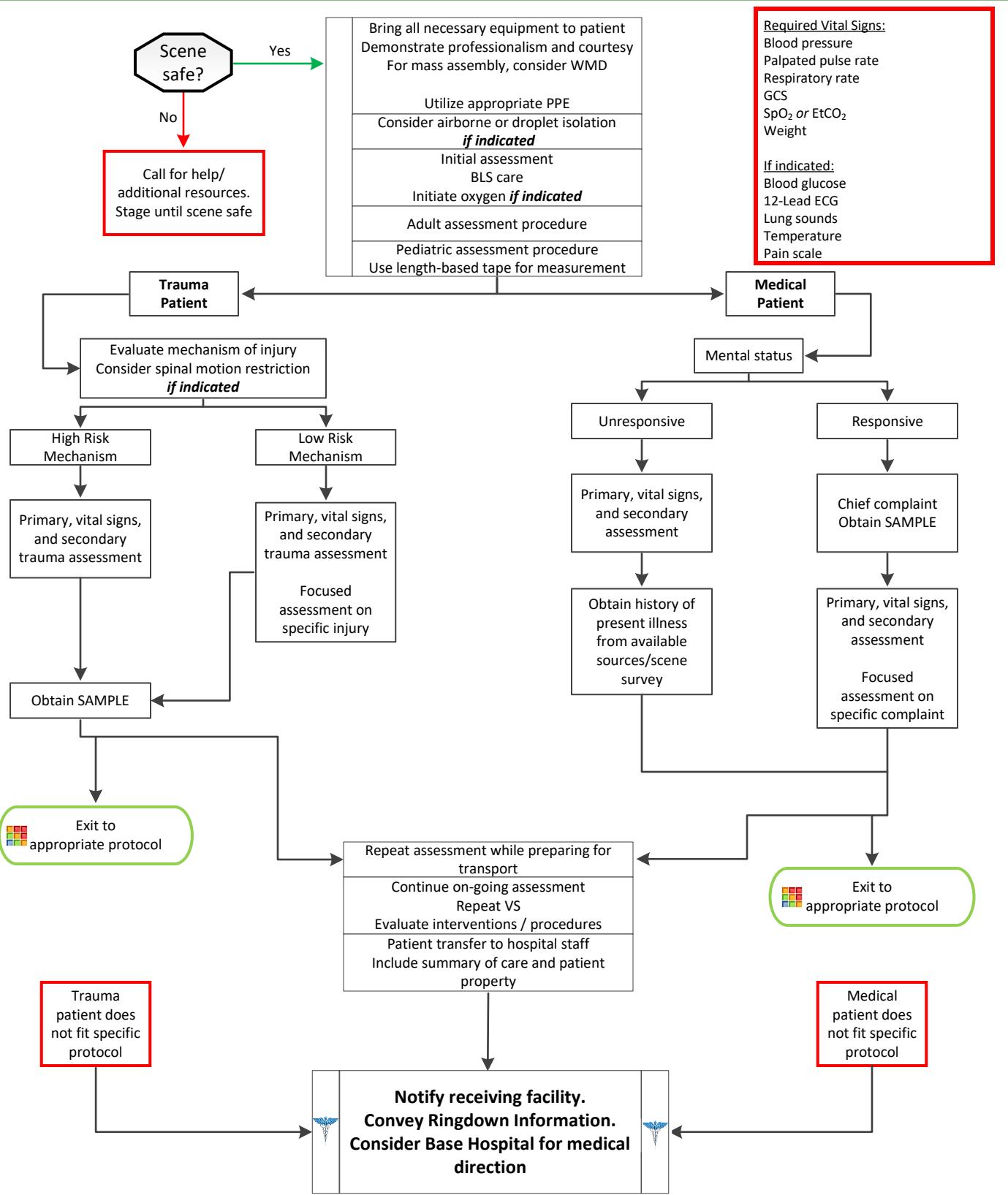


Routine Medical Care

General Treatment Protocol



Routine Medical Care

Scene Safety Evaluation: Identify potential hazards to prehospital providers, patient, and public. Identify the number of patients and utilize triage protocol if indicated. Observe patient position and surroundings.

General: All patient care must be appropriate to the provider level of training and documented in the EHR. The EHR narrative should be considered a story of the circumstances, events, and care of the patient and should allow the reader to understand the complaint, assessment, treatment, why procedures were performed, and why indicated procedures were not performed as well as ongoing assessments and response to treatment and interventions.

Adult Patient: An adult should be suspected of being acutely hypotensive when systolic blood pressure is less than 90mmHg. Diabetic patients and women may have atypical presentations of cardiac-related problems such as MI. General weakness can be the symptom of a very serious underlying process. Beta blockers and other cardiac drugs may prevent a reflexive tachycardia in shock with low to normal pulse rates.

Geriatric Patient: Falls, car collisions, hip fractures, and dislocations have high mortality rates. Altered mental status is not always dementia. Always check BGL and assess for signs for stroke, trauma, etc. with any alteration in a patient's baseline mental status. Minor or moderate injury in the typical adult may be very serious in the elderly.

Pediatric Patient: A pediatric *medical* patient is defined as any patient who can be measured on a length-based tape. A pediatric *trauma* patient is defined as any patient < 15 years of age. Special needs children may require continued use of Pediatric based protocols regardless of age and weight. Initial assessment should utilize the Pediatric Assessment Triangle which encompasses appearance, work of breathing and circulation to skin. The order of assessment may require alteration dependent on the developmental state of the pediatric patient. Generally the child or infant should not be separated from the caregiver unless absolutely necessary during assessment and treatment.

Special note on oxygen administration and utilization: Oxygen in prehospital patient care is probably over utilized. Oxygen is a pharmaceutical drug with indications, contraindications as well as untoward side effects. Utilize oxygen when indicated, not because it is available. A reasonable target oxygen saturation for most patients is 92% regardless of delivery device.

Pearls

- Utilize body substance isolation for all patients.
 - **All-hazards precautions** include standard PPE plus airborne and contact precautions. This level of precaution is utilized during the initial phases of an outbreak when the etiology of the infection is unknown or when the causative agent is found to be highly contagious (e.g., Ebola, MERS, SARS).
 - **Airborne precautions** include standard PPE plus a N95 or P100 mask. This level of precaution is utilized for very small germs like tuberculosis, measles, and chicken pox.
 - **Droplet precautions** include standard PPE plus a standard surgical mask for providers who accompany patients in the back of the ambulance and a surgical mask or NRB O₂ mask for the patient. This level of precaution should be utilized when influenza, meningitis, mumps, streptococcal pharyngitis and other illnesses spread via large particle droplets are suspected. A patient with a potentially infectious rash should be treated with droplet precautions.
 - **Contact precautions** include standard PPE plus utilization of a gown, change of gloves after every patient contact and strict hand washing precautions. This level of precaution is utilized when multi-drug resistant organisms (e.g., MRSA and VRE), scabies, herpes zoster (shingles), or other illnesses spread by contact are suspected.
- Timing of transport should be based on the patient's condition and the destination policy.
- Never hesitate to contact the Base Hospital as a high risk refusal resource for any patient who refuses transport.
- SAMPLE: Signs/Symptoms; Allergies; Medications; PMH; Last oral intake; Events leading to injury/illness.
- For patients on whom a cardiac monitor has been placed, the standard of care and expectation is that they remain on the cardiac monitor until such time that transfer of care has occurred at the hospital.
- Use of venous blood for the purpose of blood glucose analysis is acceptable. There is a known statistical, but clinically insignificant, difference between arterial and venous blood glucose analysis.
- Pulse oximetry falsely reads elevated in patients of color. If patient appears SOB, treat with O₂ regardless of SpO₂.



Routine Medical Care

Trauma Ringdowns

- Unit ID (i.e. M107 or San Mateo Medic 42)
- Code 2 or Code 3 with **trauma activation**
- Age
- Gender
- Mechanism of Injury: Blunt vs. penetrating MVA
 - Restrained vs. unrestrained
 - Location inside car
 - Speed
 - Type of MVA (e.g., head-on/rear-ended/t-bone/rollover)
 - Damage
 - Airbag deployment
- FALL
 - Height
 - Surface
 - Taking blood thinners?
- ASSAULT
 - Punched, kicked, struck by an object
- GSW
 - Wound location(s)
 - Type of weapon (e.g., handgun/shotgun/rifle)
- STABBING
 - Wound location(s)
 - Size of blade
 - Type of blade (e.g., serrated or smooth)
- Chief complaint
- Mental status and GCS
- Physical findings
- Vital signs (BP/HR/RR/O₂ sat/BGL)
- Treatment
- ETA
- How do you copy?

Stroke/ALOC Ringdowns

- Unit ID (i.e. M107 or San Mateo Medic 42)
- Code 2 or Code 3 with **stroke alert**
- Age
- Gender
- Time last known well
- Mental status and GCS
- Chief Complaint
- Physical findings
- Vital signs (BP/HR/RR/O₂ sat/BGL/Temp)
- Treatment
- Patient is positive/negative for blood thinners
- MR# or patient name and DOB
- ETA
- How do you copy?

STEMI/Medical Ringdowns

- Unit ID (i.e. M107 or San Mateo Medic 42)
- Code 2 or Code 3 with **STEMI alert**
- Age
- Gender
- Chief Complaint
- Physical findings
- Vital signs (BP/HR/RR/O₂ sat/BGL/Temp)
- Treatment
- 12-Lead ECG has been transmitted to your facility
- MR# or patient name and DOB
- ETA
- How do you copy?

Best family contact and phone number must be gathered on all patients and relayed to receiving hospital staff during transfer of care

