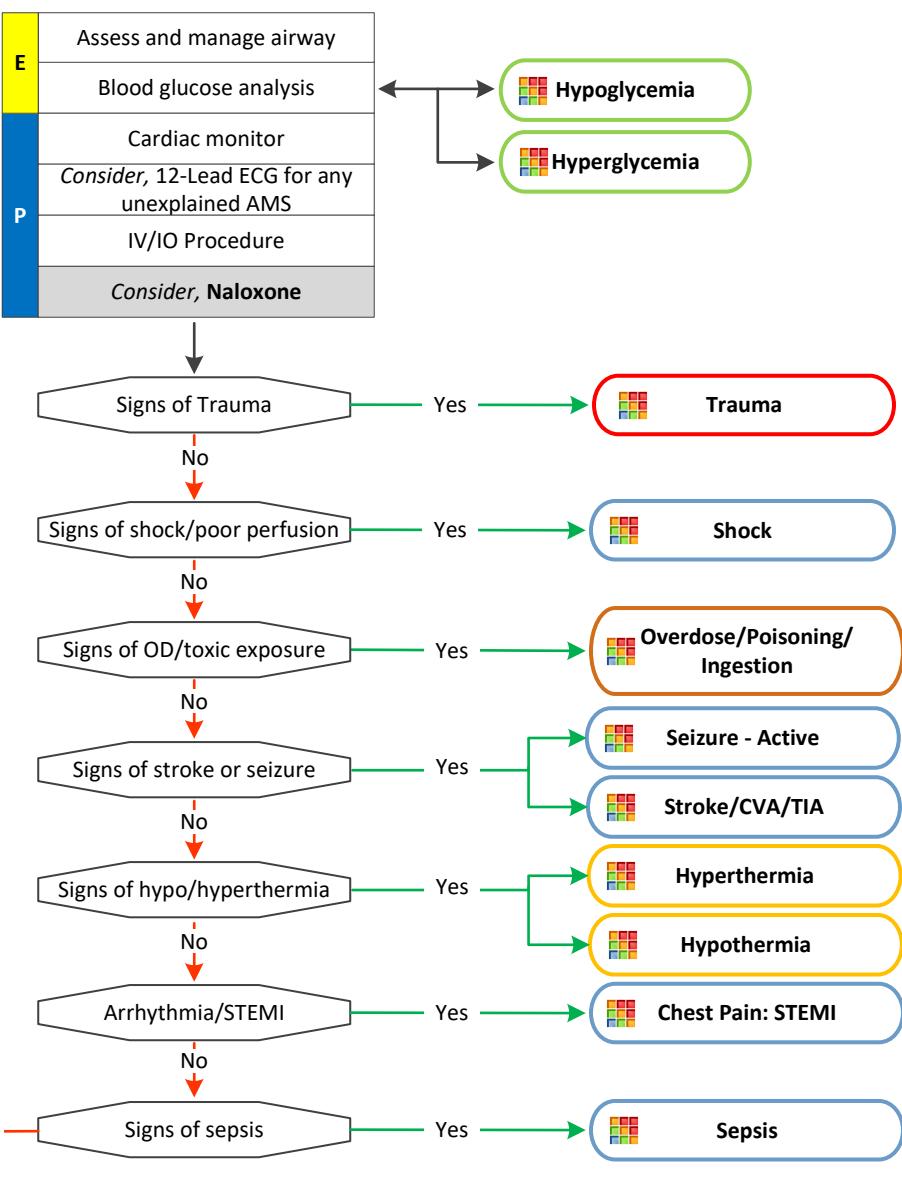


Altered Level of Consciousness (ALOC)

For altered mental status not attributed to a more specific primary impression (i.e., cause unknown). Use as secondary primary impression when cause known

History	Signs and Symptoms	Differential
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Known diabetic or medical alert tag Drugs or drug paraphernalia Report of illicit drug use or toxic ingestion Past medical history Medications History of trauma or traumatic brain injury Change in condition Changes in feeding or sleep habits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in baseline mental status Decrease mental status or lethargy Bizarre behavior Hypoglycemia (cool, diaphoretic skin) Hyperglycemia (warm, dry skin; fruity breath; Kussmaul respirations; signs of dehydration) Irritability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head trauma CNS (stroke, tumor, seizure, infection) Cardiac (MI, CHF) Hypothermia Thyroid Electrolyte abnormality Acidosis or alkalosis Environmental exposure Infection or sepsis Overdose or toxicological Under dose of prescribed medications Trauma Insulin or diabetic emergency Psychiatric disorder Sepsis or shock



Notify receiving facility.
Consider Base Hospital
for medical direction



Altered Level of Consciousness (ALOC)

For altered mental status not attributed to a more specific primary impression (i.e., cause unknown). Use as secondary primary impression when cause known

Pearls

- Be aware of ALOC as a presenting sign of an environmental toxin or hazmat exposure and protect personal safety and that of other responders who may already be exposed.
- Consider restraints if necessary for patient or personnel protection.

