

Pediatric 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

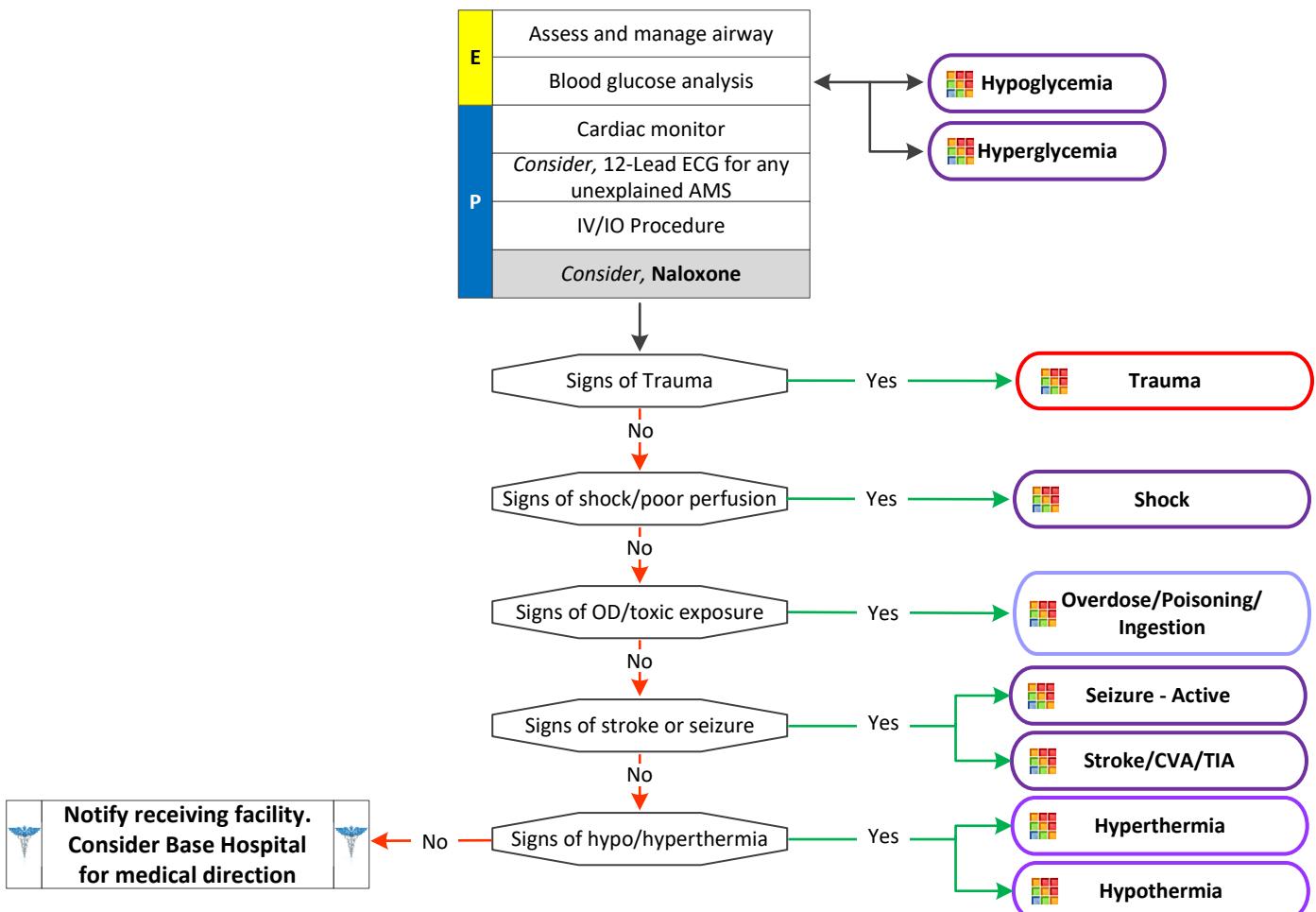
- Known diabetic or medical alert tag
 - Suspected or known toxic ingestion
 - Report of illicit drug use or toxic ingestion
 - Past medical history
 - Medications
 - History of trauma or traumatic brain injury
 - Change in condition
 - Changes in feeding or sleep habits

Signs and Symptoms

- 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

Differential

- 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



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.



SAN MATEO COUNTY HEALTH EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Treatment Protocol P04