

1.01 PATIENT ASSESSMENT—PRIMARY SURVEY

EMSAC APRIL 2025

The purpose of the primary survey is to identify and immediately correct life-threatening problems. A primary survey shall be performed on all patients (as defined in Policy 4040) upon contact, following determination of scene safety. Should a provider be unable to perform a Primary Survey, the circumstances shall be documented in a Patient Care Report.

SCENE SIZE-UP / GLOBAL ASSESSMENT:

- Recognize hazards, ensure safety of scene and secure a safe area for treatment.
- Apply appropriate universal body/substance isolation precautions.
- Identify number of patients and whether additional resources are needed
- Observe position of patient and determine chief complaint or mechanism of injury.
- Plan strategy to protect evidence at potential crime scene.

GENERAL IMPRESSION:

- Check for life threatening conditions.
- AVPU (**A**=alert, **V**=responds to verbal stimuli, **P**=responds to painful stimuli, **U**=unresponsive).

AIRWAY:

- Ensure patent airway.
- Protect spine from unnecessary movement in patients at risk for spinal injury.
- Look and listen for evidence of upper airway problems and potential obstructions:
- Utilize any appropriate adjuncts as indicated to maintain airway.

BREATHING:

- Assess for breathing.
- Intervention for inadequate ventilation and/or oxygenation using approved adjuncts as indicated.

CIRCULATION:

Check for pulse. If no pulse, begin CPR and/or defibrillate while following appropriate cardiac arrest protocols.

- Control life-threatening hemorrhage.