### Altered Level of Consciousness (ALOC)

#### History
- 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

#### Signs and Symptoms
- Change in baseline mental status
- Decrease in 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

---

**E**
- Assess and manage airway
- Blood glucose analysis
- Cardiac monitor
- **Consider**, 12-Lead ECG for any unexplained AMS
- IV/IO Procedure
  - **Consider**, Naloxone

**P**
- Signs of Trauma
  - Yes → **Trauma**
  - No → Signs of shock/poor perfusion
  - Yes → **Shock**
  - No → Signs of OD/toxic exposure
  - Yes → Overdose/Poisoning/Ingestion
  - No → Signs of stroke or seizure
  - Yes → **Seizure - Active**
  - No → Signs of hypo/hyper thermia
  - Yes → Hyperthermia
  - No → Arrhythmia/STEMI
  - Yes → Chest Pain: STEMI
  - No → Signs of sepsis
  - Yes → Sepsis

---

*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.