

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

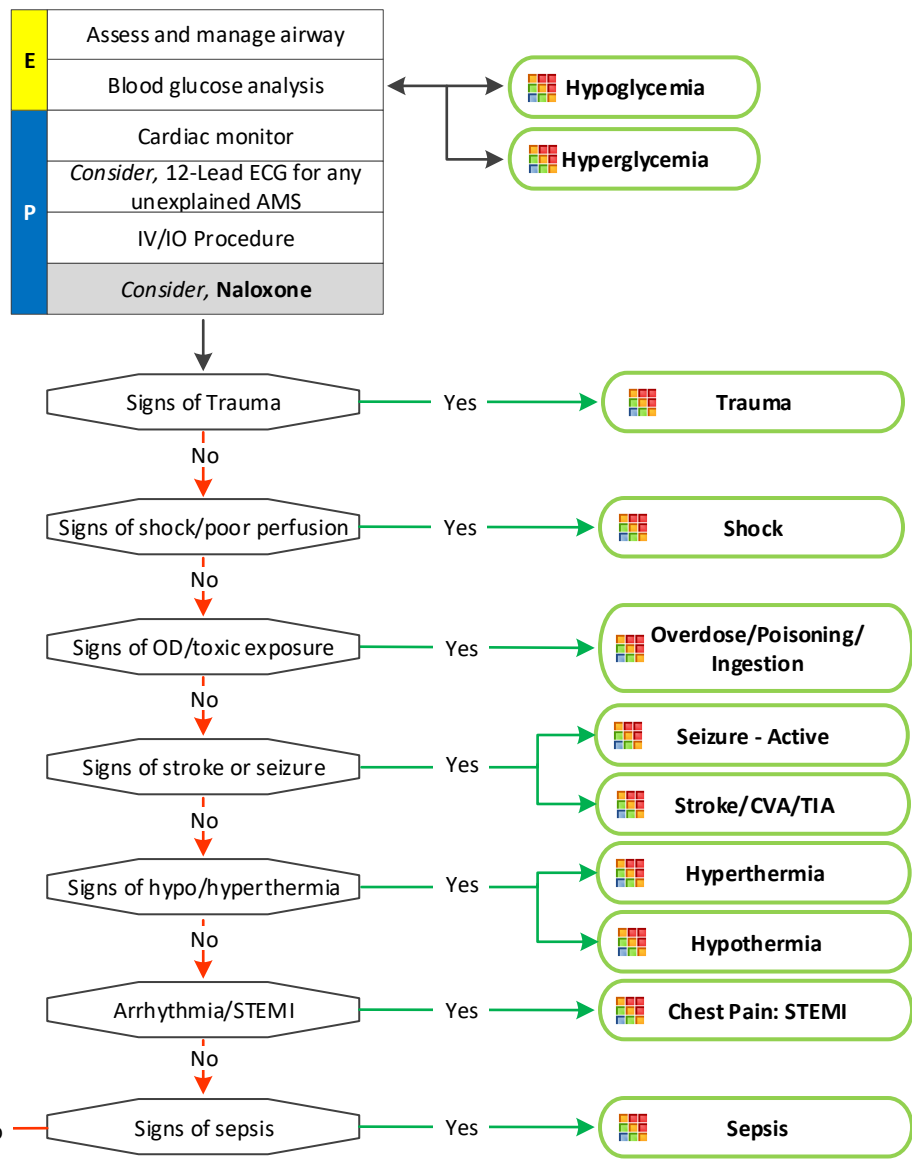
- Known diabetic or medical alert tag
- Drugs or drug paraphernalia
- Report of illicit drug use or toxic ingestion
- Past medical history
- Medications
- History of trauma or traumatic brain injury
- Change in condition
- Changes in feeding or sleep habits

Signs and Symptoms

- Change in baseline mental status
- Decrease 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



Adult Medical Treatment Protocols

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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.

