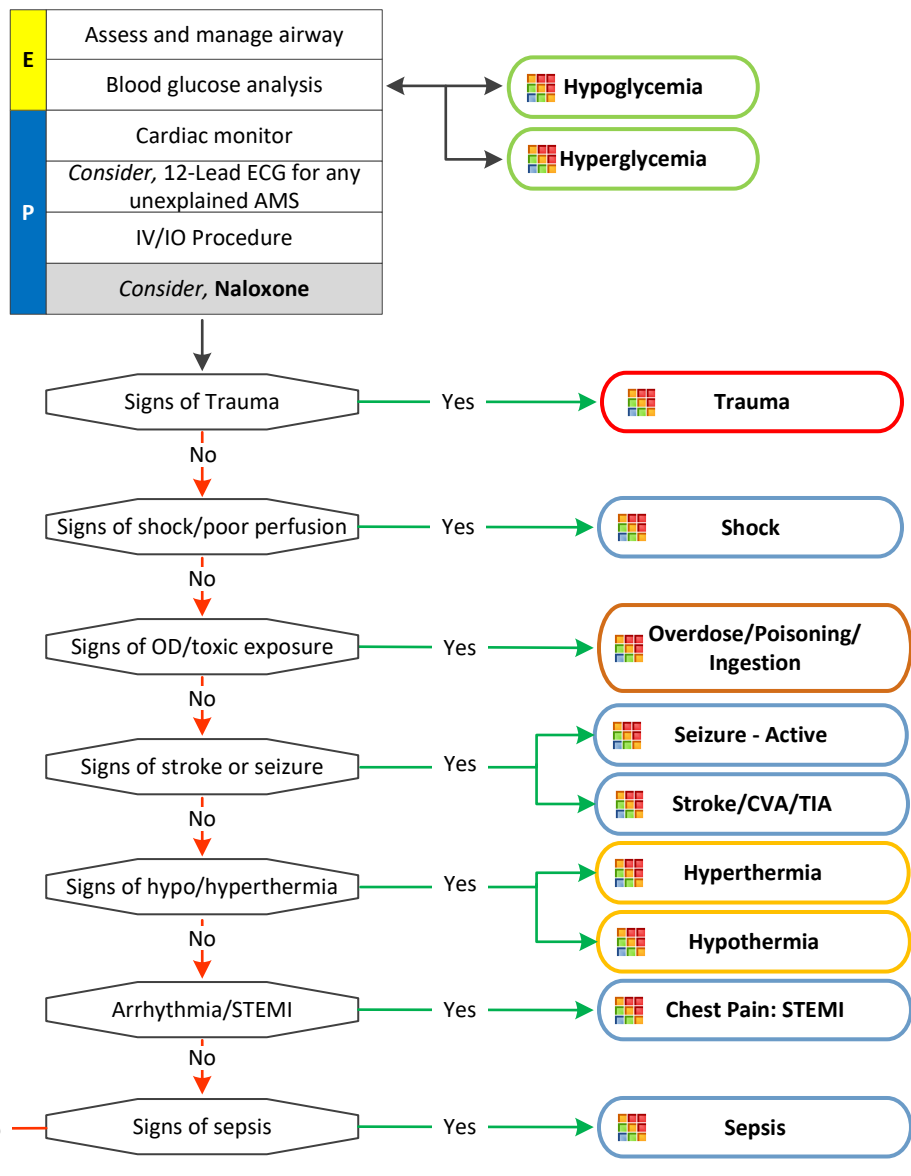


Altered Level of Consciousness (ALOC)

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

<p>History</p> <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 	<p>Signs and Symptoms</p> <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 	<p>Differential</p> <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
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Adult Medical Treatment Protocols

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.

