# Altered Level of Consciousness (ALOC)

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

#### History

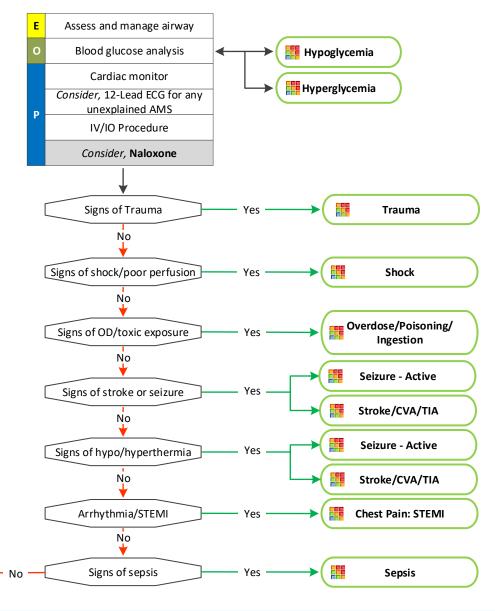
- · Known diabetic or medical alert tag
- Drugs or drug paraphernalia
- Report of illicit drug use or toxic ingestion
- · Past medical history
- Medications
- · History of trauma or traumatic brain injury
- Change in condition
- Changes in feeding or sleep habits

#### 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





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.

