Non-Traumatic Headache
For non-traumatic headache or head pain

History
- Age
- Location and duration
- Severity (0 – 10 scale)
- Past medical history
- Drug allergies and medications
- Fever

Signs and Symptoms
- Severity (pain scale)
- Quality (e.g., sharp, dull, or stabbing)
- Radiation
- Relation to movement or respiration
- Photophobia
- Nausea/vomiting

Differential
- Migraine
- Head trauma
- Intracranial hemorrhage
- Arterial hypertension
- Substance use withdrawal
- Viral/bacterial infection
- Hypoxia
- Hypercapnia

Assess pain severity
Use combination of pain scale, circumstances, HPI, and illness severity

Neurologic symptoms?

Yes

Stroke/CVA/TIA

Severe pain

Apply cold pack if applicable
Consider, IV
Assess and monitor respiratory status
Apply and monitor cardiac rhythm
For pain consider, Acetaminophen
Consider, Ondansetron for nausea

Mild pain

Position of comfort
Apply cold pack if applicable
Low flow Oxygen

Notify receiving facility.
Consider Base Hospital for medical direction
Pearls

- Use judgement in assessing pain and consider circumstances and history of narcotic use before administering narcotics.
- Pain severity (0 – 10 scale) shall be recorded before and after all BLS pain control measures and ALS pain medication delivery. Monitor blood pressure and respirations closely as pain control medications may cause hypotension or respiratory distress.
- Low flow oxygen can be used to treat cluster-type headaches.