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
- Fever

**Differential**
- Migraine
- Intracranial hemorrhage
- Arterial hypertension
- Behavioral
- Viral/bacterial infection
- Hypoxia
- Hypercapnia
- Carbon monoxide poisoning

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

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**Neurologic symptoms?**
- Yes ➔ Stroke/CVA/TIA

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**Severe pain**
(Pain scale 7 or greater)

- Position of comfort
- Temperature measurement
- Consider, IV
- Assess and monitor respiratory status
- Apply and monitor cardiac rhythm
- Consider, Ondansetron

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**Mild pain**

- Position of comfort
- Temperature measurement

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**Fever**

- Yes ➔ Fever
- Yes ➔ Temperature measurement

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**Notify receiving facility.**
Consider Base Hospital for medical direction
**FLACC Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Face</th>
<th>Legs</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Cry</th>
<th>Consolability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>No particular expression or smile</td>
<td>No particular expression or smile</td>
<td>No particular expression or smile</td>
<td>No particular expression or smile</td>
<td>No particular expression or smile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Occasional grimace or frown, withdrawn, disinterested</td>
<td>Occasional grimace or frown, withdrawn, disinterested</td>
<td>Occasional grimace or frown, withdrawn, disinterested</td>
<td>Occasional grimace or frown, withdrawn, disinterested</td>
<td>Occasional grimace or frown, withdrawn, disinterested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Frequent to constant frown, clenched jaw, quivering chin</td>
<td>Frequent to constant frown, clenched jaw, quivering chin</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Pearls**
- Pain severity (0 – 10 scale) shall be recorded before and after all BLS pain control measures delivery. Monitor blood pressure and respirations closely as pain control medications may cause hypotension or respiratory distress.
- FLACC scale is intended for patients under 12 months of age.

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*San Mateo County Emergency Medical Services*

*Effective November 2018*

*Treatment Protocol   P24*

*Effective July 2020*