**Carbon Monoxide/Cyanide**

**For suspected or known carbon monoxide exposure**

**Pearls**
- CO is colorless and odorless.
- Pulse oximetry will likely be normal with CO toxicity.
- Hyperbaric oxygen is recommended for those with AMS, seizure, coma, focal deficits, blindness, CO levels > 25% or > 20% if pregnant. John Muir Medical Center – Walnut Creek is the only emergency hyperbaric chamber in the Bay Area. Contact the Base Hospital for direction.
- Baseline carboxyhemoglobin levels in chronic smokers is 5-10%.
- Consider cyanide poisoning in any patient with CO intoxication.
- For suspected cyanide poisoning, contact the receiving hospital early.
- Consider cyanide poisoning in any patient with AMS.

**History**
- Industrial or closed space fire
- Facial burns
- Previous CO poisoning
- Propane powered equipment (e.g., power mower, tractor, gas powered equipment)
- Gas home heaters, natural gas stoves, kerosene heaters
- Gas clothes dryer or hot water heater
- Multiple people or pets with similar symptoms

**Signs and Symptoms**
- AMS
- Malaise/Fatigue
- Flu-like symptoms
- Weakness
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Blurred vision
- Ataxia
- Seizure
- Nausea/vomiting/cramping
- Chest pain

**Differential**
- Diabetic emergency
- Infection/sepsis
- Myocardial infarction
- Anaphylaxis
- Renal failure
- Head injury/trauma
- Ingestion/toxic exposure

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**Immediate Care**

- Immediately remove from exposure
- Airway support
- High flow Oxygen regardless of SpO₂

**O**
- Blood glucose analysis
- Cardiac monitor
- CO-oximetry (SpCO), if available
- 12-Lead ECG
- Establish IV/IO
- Consider, EtCO₂ monitoring

**P**
- If systolic BP < 90
  - Normal Saline bolus 500ml IV/IO
  - Maximum 2L

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

**Emergency Hyperbaric Chambers**
John Muir Medical Center – Walnut Creek