

SOUTH PLAINS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

PRE-HOSPITAL TREATMENT PROTOCOLS for Emergency Care Attendant

APPROVED FOR USE



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PREFACE

These Protocols, originally developed by Francis C. Jackson, M.D., have been revised by the Protocol Committee of South Plains EMS, Inc. The patient care procedures are intended to reflect current recommendations from organizations including, but not limited to, the American Heart Association, The National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, and the Committee on Trauma of the American College of Surgeons. They are not intended to restrict or substitute for the use of informed professional judgment by the Medical Control Physicians.

To the best of our knowledge, drug dosages are consistent with national standards. Neither the Protocol Committee, The Medical Direction Committee, South Plains EMS, Inc., nor the Medical Directors shall be held liable for readers' errors, omissions, or misunderstanding of the text.

DISCLAIMER

The original version of these protocols are located in the SPEMS office, any changes whatsoever are strictly prohibited without the express written permission of the SPEMS's Medical Director.

On occasion a variance, addendum, or other change may be needed to the current SPEMS protocols. In this event the request **MUST** be facilitated through the SPEMS office. The request will then be submitted to the SPEMS Medical Director for approval.

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TREATMENT PROTOCOLS

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GENERAL GUIDELINES

The algorithms in this manual consist of treatment protocols, which may be implemented by EMS technicians at the appropriate level of certification, they establish guidelines based on established standards of care to assist physicians in providing on-line medical control.

Only ECAs certified by the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS), who also have current medical control authorization from the South Plains Emergency Medical Services (SPEMS) Medical Director, may manage patients under these treatment protocols.

ECAs who do not have current medical control authorization from the SPEMS Medical Director are prohibited from operating under these treatment protocols.

Execution of treatment protocols without medical control authorization will constitute the unauthorized practice of medicine and may result in action being initiated to revoke the offender's EMS certification.

ECAs should contact medical control whenever they believe that circumstances may indicate deviation from protocol, or whenever a situation does not appear to be clearly governed by a specific protocol. In the event that the physician at the receiving hospital cannot be contacted, the medical control physician at University Medical Center shall be contacted immediately. While treatment procedures can be performed without on-line medical control, it is always available when needed. When in doubt, contact on-line medical control.

Radio orders may be communicated through a registered nurse if the physician is physically present in the emergency department but is unable to come to the radio. If all efforts to establish voice contact fail, the authorized ECA should execute the appropriate protocols and transport. Attempts to establish voice contact with the receiving facility or University Medical Center should continue at least every 5 minutes throughout transport.

Use of these treatment protocols must be fully documented by ECAs on the run report.

These treatment protocols are also intended to serve as guidelines to medical control physicians regarding the current standard for pre-hospital emergency care. These protocols will also provide a basis for auditing the quality of pre-hospital care delivered in the South Plains EMS System. These treatment protocols are not intended to restrict or substitute for the use of informed professional judgment by medical control physicians.

This manual is the result of a review and compilation by the South Plains EMS System Protocol Committee of current, nationally accepted standards for pre-hospital care. The Medical Director of the South Plains EMS System has approved these treatment protocols for use.

This document will be reviewed annually by the Protocol Committee and the Medical Director. Appropriate changes will be distributed following the annual review. If no changes are made, a letter to that effect will be circulated.

These treatment protocols will remain in effect for the duration of the provider license issued by the Texas Department of State Health Services, unless revoked by the SPEMS Medical Director.

MEDICAL CONTROL AUTHORIZATION

Pursuant to the provisions of the Medical Practice Act, the Medical Director of South Plains EMS, Inc. and the SPEMS Medical Direction Committee have determined that the following requirements must be met by ECAs who wish to operate under the treatment protocols in this manual.

Furthermore, these requirements must also be satisfied by any ECA who wishes to practice in the SPEMS system under the supervision of the SPEMS Medical Director. This requirement, established pursuant to 22 TAC, Sec. 197.3(b)(1), states that the medical director shall approve the level of pre-hospital care which may be rendered locally by each of the EMS personnel employed by and/or volunteering with the EMS under the Medical Director's supervision before the certificant is permitted to provide pre-hospital care to the public, regardless of the level of state certification.

It is the responsibility of the individual's EMS Service Provider to keep records of individual EMS certifications, immunization records, protocol exams, case review participation, skills exams and any specialized training required by the medical director. These records are subject to examination at anytime, by the SPEMS Medical Director or his/her designate.

Each ECA must:

1. Provide documentation of current certification as an ECA by the Texas Department of State Health Services.
2. Be currently certified in Health Care Provider BLS.
3. Demonstrate approval of local hospital and/or the local medical director by providing a letter which:
 - a) States understanding that the ECA will be using the SPEMS protocols.
 - b) Acknowledges that the ECA will be using University Medical Center for on-line medical control under specific circumstances, and
 - c) States the circumstances under which this medical control will be used.
4. Have passed the protocol examination within the past year. A copy of the protocol exam must be forwarded to the SPEMS office. The Medical Director may require additional formal training in the protocols at any time.
5. Participate in case review at least four times per year. Two of which are recommended by the end of the first half of the year and the remaining two by the end of the second half of the year. The SPEMS Medical Director, or his designee, shall attend all case reviews. A written record will be kept of all case reviews. This record will consist of at least a summary of the cases presented and recommendations made for changes in procedure.
6. Use an approved standard run report form/software, and, by the 10th of each month, send a copy of all run reports to the SPEMS Medical Director through the SPEMS office.
7. Leave a copy of **ALL** EMS run reports at the receiving hospital within 24 hours of the call. A patient contact form, list of medications given, and procedures preformed will be given to the patient's nurse prior to leaving the receiving facility.
8. ECA's must demonstrate proficiency of the following skill at least twice per year between the period of January 1st through June 30th and July 1st through December 31st:
 - Intramuscular Epinephrine (If currently carried by your service)

Skills may be checked off by a TDSHS Instructor, SPEMS Peer Reviewer, or the SPEMS Medical Director or Associate Medical Director.

9. These protocols shall only be utilized under medical direction of the SPEMS Medical Director in the SPEMS/TSA-B area or during routine transfers from one service area to another. These protocols may also be followed in the performance of Good Samaritan duties outside of the SPEMS/TSA-B area when off duty and not responding with any emergency service agency (i.e. EMS, Police, or Fire Dept.). In the event that you are outside of the SPEMS/TSA-B area and assist an EMS service, online medical direction must be obtained prior to performing any advanced procedures.
10. The intent of these protocols are for the EMS professionals to treat patients as they would want a member of their family treated.

PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES FOR MEDICAL CONTROL AUTHORIZATION

Documentation of continuing education, skills proficiency, and case review attendance will be maintained by the EMS technician's training officer. Failure to maintain appropriate documentation may result in the EMS technician's medical control authorization being suspended.

Suspension means that the technician may not practice until completion of all medical control authorization requirements are documented. Suspension may only be removed by the Medical Director, immediately following documentation of all requirements. The fact that an EMS technician's medical control has been suspended does not relieve the technician of the responsibility for meeting all requirements for the subsequent reporting period.

The individual's EMS service director will determine the administrative consequences of suspension of medical control authorization.

Use of the treatment protocols, or practice as an ECA without current medical control authorization will constitute the unauthorized practice of medicine and may result in action being initiated to revoke the offender's EMS certification.

Upon suspension of medical control authorization, the concerned individual will be notified by a personal letter from the SPEMS Medical Director.

INFECTION CONTROL

GENERAL:

1. Each EMS organization participating in SPEMS will designate an individual to act as its Infection Control Officer. The Infection Control Officer will be responsible to the administrative director of the EMS organization and to the Medical Director of SPEMS for ensuring compliance with these procedures.
2. Each EMS organization participating in SPEMS should demonstrate compliance with the OSHA Blood Borne Pathogen Rule, "29 CFR, Part 1910,0130," as fully as possible. All EMS personnel should receive formal initial training on the Blood Borne Pathogen Rule. All personnel should complete refresher training annually.
3. EMS personnel are strongly encouraged to document immunity to the following diseases by immunization or, when applicable, by history of prior infection:
 - Rubella (German Measles)
 - Red Measles
 - Mumps
 - Hepatitis B
 - Tetanus-Diphtheria
 - Influenza (yearly)
4. EMS personnel should be tested annually for tuberculosis unless contraindicated. Positive reactors should be referred to the public health authorities for appropriate follow-up.
5. In the unpredictable and uncontrollable pre-hospital environment, it is safest to follow body substance isolation practices, which consider all body substances to be potentially infectious (i.e. "If it's wet, it's bad!"). The following should be considered as potentially infectious:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amniotic fluid • Blood • Body fluids with visible blood • Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) • Feces • Nasal secretions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pericardial fluid • Peritoneal fluid • Semen • Sputum • Sweat • Synovial Fluid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tears • Teeth • Tissues • Urine • Vaginal secretions • Vomitus
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6. The routine utilization of exposure control procedures and appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) by the individual EMS employee/volunteer is essential to the safety of all involved personnel. Its use can help ensure protection from infectious materials to the EMS employee/volunteer, that individual's family members, other members of the EMS department, subsequent patients and the general public.
7. The selection and utilization of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be based upon its ability to provide an impervious barrier between any potentially contaminating body fluids and the EMS employee/volunteer. Each participating SPEMS department is responsible for the supply, repair, cleaning, replacement, and safe disposal of all exposure control-related Personal Protective Equipment. All required PPE should be supplied to that department's personnel and subsequently maintained by the individual department at no expense to the employee/volunteer.

ROUTINE VEHICLE CLEANING:

1. All exposed surfaces in the patient compartment will be kept clean with a 1:10 solution of household bleach in water, or a NIOSH-approved hospital germicide that also has tuberculocidal properties. Gloves will be worn during cleaning.
2. All reusable hard equipment, spine boards, cervical immobilization devices and cervical collars will be cleaned after each use with hot soapy water, rinsed, disinfected with a germicidal agent and dried. Spine boards and other wooden equipment with exposed splinters should be discarded or sanded and resealed. Gloves will be worn during cleaning.

3. Stock items and medications will be checked at shift change (or as otherwise specified by local policy & procedure) for expiration dates. Materials with the shortest time to expiration should be used first. Expired materials will not be used and will be removed from the vehicle and disposed of properly.

Proper disposal of medications should be made when (1) the container is cracked, (2) the contents are obviously contaminated, (3) the medication has not been stored in accordance with the directions on the label or package insert, or (4) the date has expired.

4. Disposable equipment will be used whenever possible. Used disposable equipment that has been contaminated with body fluids will be placed in a sealed and appropriately labeled "Biohazard" container until it can be incinerated.
5. Following each use, non-disposable equipment will be washed with hot soapy water, rinsed, disinfected with a tuberculocidal/germicidal agent, and dried. Gloves will be worn during cleaning. If non-disposable equipment cannot be cleaned immediately, it should be placed in a sealed and appropriately labeled "Biohazard" container until it can be properly cleaned.
6. After patient contact, priority will be given to spills of blood or other body fluids. All contaminated areas should be cleaned with an appropriate germicidal agent. Gloves will be worn during cleaning.
7. After patient contact, stretcher linens will be changed. Used linens will be placed in an impermeable bag or will be double-bagged until they can be removed from the ambulance. Used linens will be removed from the ambulance at the earliest possible time for laundering. Gloves will be worn when handling linens obviously contaminated with body fluids. Bags containing contaminated linens should be labeled "Biohazard."
8. Sharp objects will be immediately placed in a puncture-resistant container. Needles will not be recapped, cut, bent, or removed from the syringe. The entire needle-syringe unit should be discarded. When filled, the container will be discarded in accordance with the local medical facility's "Biohazard Waste" policies.

PATIENT CARE PRECAUTIONS:

1. Gloves should be worn on every ambulance call and should be applied before patient contact is made. However, the driver of the emergency vehicle should put on his gloves either before he departs for the emergency or immediately upon arrival. He should not attempt to put on gloves while driving. Latex gloves do not provide puncture protection. At an accident scene, leather gloves should be worn over latex gloves.
2. Eye protection should be worn when there is a risk of splattering with body fluids. Eyeglasses with plain glass lenses may be used if industrial safety glasses or face shields are unavailable or impractical, but safety glasses/shields with side panels are preferred due to their added protection.
3. Mouth-to-mouth breathing should NOT be performed. The pocket mask with one-way valve or a bag-valve mask should be used for ventilating patients.
4. Clothing soiled with blood or body fluids should be changed as soon as practical. It is recommended that a change of clothing, a jump suit or a surgical scrub suit be available on the ambulance for each crewmember. If the crewmember's skin has been contaminated, he should be allowed to remove contaminated clothing and, if needed, shower as quickly as possible.
5. Patients should wear a mask if a pathogenic organism could be present in their respiratory secretions. If the patient will not tolerate the mask, or must receive continuous respiratory care precluding a mask, the ambulance crew should wear a mask. Also, the ambulance exhaust fan should be utilized and, weather permitting, the windows opened to increase the exchange of air out of the vehicle. High-risk conditions indicating the wearing of masks are known cases of mumps; measles; chicken pox; active tuberculosis; or meningitis; or fever accompanied by rash, stiff neck, or productive cough.
6. Known AIDS patients should wear a mask to protect them from infection. If the patient will not tolerate the mask, or must receive continuous respiratory care precluding a mask, the ambulance crew should wear a mask. They should notify the patient that this is being done to protect the patient from possible infectious organisms.

7. Pregnant EMS technicians should avoid providing direct care to known AIDS patients, since many of the patients excrete cytomegalovirus. CMV is known to cause birth defects.
8. EMS technicians with known or suspected infectious diseases should avoid providing direct care until a physician determines that there is no risk of transmitting infection to immunocompromised patients.

HAND WASHING/HAND CARE:

1. Vigorous scrubbing of the hands with a germicidal soap under running water for 30 seconds will remove or kill most pathogens. Hands should be washed at the beginning and on completion of duty and immediately following each call as soon as gloves are removed. Wearing gloves does not eliminate the need to wash hands.
2. Lotion should be applied following hand washing to avoid chapping of the skin, but some lotions can affect the integrity of latex gloves.
3. Cuts or other open lesions on the hands or other exposed skin should be covered with a fluid resistant bandage. Bandaging open lesions does not eliminate the need to glove.

EXPOSURE PROCEDURES:

1. With routine utilization of appropriate precautions, the risk of needle stick injuries can be significantly reduced. However, in the event that a needle stick does occur, the site should be encouraged to bleed. The site should be cleaned immediately with an alcohol foam and the hands washed thoroughly as soon as possible.
2. All cases of possible disease exposure, including a needle stick, should be reported immediately to the personnel at the receiving hospital and to the appropriate supervisor with the EMS technician's organization. The incident should be thoroughly documented on the EMS Agency's or receiving hospital's applicable incident report form.
3. The infection control practitioner at each hospital will follow up all cases of exposure of EMS technicians and will advise on appropriate procedures. State law requires this notification.

DEFINITIONS

1. ACUTE CORONARY SYNDROME:

The clinical presentation associated with ACS may be placed into 1 of 3 general categories.

- **Classic angina:** which refers to the traditional presentation of chest pain (dull, crushing, substernal. Etc).
- **Atypical presentation:** Chest pain which falls short of the typical features is called atypical chest pain. Examples include pain that is sharp, intermittent, in the teeth, neck, shoulder, arm or abdomen etc. Atypical chest pain mostly encompasses females, diabetics, and the elderly.
- **Anginal equivalents:** consider in higher risk patients: dyspnea, palpitations, syncope or near syncope, generalized weakness with no history of a GI bleed or recent fever, and DKA. Anginal equivalents are symptoms not usually associated with classic angina, but are common “atypical symptoms”. They are called “equivalents” because they often are the only symptoms the patient manifests during an ischemic cardiac event. An example would be a diabetic with only vomiting and no chest discomfort.
Risk factors include: smoking, hypertension, age, family history of CAD, obesity, stress, and sedentary life style.

The key to forming an accurate impression of chest pain remains in the clinical history. In order to make this impression, one must look at the patient’s physical presentation, listen to their story, and be able to compile and interpret all collected information. If the patient’s story/presentation, risk factors, 12 lead and vitals signs point to ACS, then EMS personnel should **consider** the patient a candidate for the Chest Pain/Possible MI Protocol until proven otherwise.

2. ADEQUATE PERFUSION:

- Patient alert and oriented
- Skin warm and dry
- Palpable radial pulses
- Capillary refill < 2 seconds

3. ADULT REFUSAL OF TRANSPORT

An adult, capable of **Informed consent**, that is competent and medically capable, may refuse treatment and/or transport. In such a case, the patient **MUST** be informed of the potential risk (including death) of such refusal and must sign a patient refusal form. If the patient refuses to sign, you should document the refusal to sign on the paperwork and have a witness sign the refusal. Witnesses in order of preference, may include Police Department, Family Member, Bystander or EMS Crew.

Adults who are **NOT** capable of Informed Consent **MUST** be treated and transported. Local Law Enforcement and/or Medical Control may be contacted for assistance.

In all cases, a SPEMS run report must be completed.

4. ASEPTIC TECHNIQUE:

Aseptic techniques include practices performed just before, during, and/or after any procedure. It is used to reduce the risk of post-procedure infections and to minimize the exposure of the health care providers to potentially infectious microorganisms. The use of aseptic technique is for all procedures, particularly invasive procedures that may break the skin or mucous membrane. This technique includes, but not limited to:

- Antiseptic hand hygiene and proper use of PPE
- Use of appropriate antiseptics to cleanse the area of the patients body that is in jeopardy of infection/contamination
- Avoid contamination of equipment and medication
- Skin should not be touched after skin antiseptics. If this happens repeat the aseptic technique for that area
- After the insertion of any device through the patients skin the insertion site shall be covered with the appropriate dressing to prevent infection

5. CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM SIGNS (observe for the following):

- Level of consciousness
- Ability to speak
- Reaction to painful stimuli
- Pupil size/reaction to light
- Ability to move extremities
- Seizures/abnormal posturing

6. CONTACT MEDICAL CONTROL:

The receiving physician at destination hospital or central medical control physician. Notify regarding patient's condition using the following format:

Medical Patients:

- Identify hospital being called, ambulance unit number, name of service, and Med channel
- Age and sex of patient
- Chief complaint
- Vital signs/GCS (including pulse, blood pressure, respirations, pulse ox and level of consciousness)
- Treatment
- Transport Signal, Code and ETA

Trauma Patients:

- Identify hospital being called, ambulance unit number, name of service, and Med channel
- Age and sex of patient
- Mechanism of injury
- Major injuries
- Trauma modifiers
- Vital signs/GCS/RTS (including pulse, blood pressure, respirations, pulse ox and level of consciousness)
- Treatment
- Transport Signal, Code and ETA

7. CONTINUE TO TREAT, MONITOR AND TRANSPORT: Continue treatment and assessment of vital signs during transport to hospital, including initial vital signs and the vital signs at time of patient transfer.

8. DUTY STATUS-GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

These protocols shall only be utilized under medical direction of the SPEMS Medical Director in the SPEMS/TSA-B area or during routine transfers from one service area to another. These protocols may also be followed in the performance of Good Samaritan duties outside of the SPEMS/TSA-B area when off duty and not responding with any emergency service agency (i.e. EMS, Police, or Fire Dept.). In the event that you are outside of the SPEMS/TSA-B area and assist an EMS service, online medical direction must be obtained prior to performing any advanced procedures.

9. ERRORS/DEVIATIONS

All medication errors, and other inadvertent deviations from SPEMS's protocols, require a written Incident Report. These must be reviewed by the Peer Reviewer at the service's next case review.

10. HIGH CONCENTRATION OXYGEN:

Oxygen delivered either by simple face mask or non-rebreather mask at 10-15 liters per minute. If using bag-valve-mask, supplemental **oxygen** should be delivered at ≥ 15 liters per minute. A demand valve may also be used to deliver high concentration **oxygen**. A nasal cannula should generally be avoided on patients with significant illness or injury because it does not provide high concentrations of **oxygen**.

11. INADEQUATE RESPIRATIONS:

SHALLOW respirations < 10 , or > 35 per minute

12. LEVEL I OR II TRAUMA CENTER:

Hospitals with formal designation as a Level I or Level II Trauma Center by the Texas Department of State Health Services and The American College of Surgeons.

13. MEDICATION CONCENTRATIONS/STORAGE

From time to time, the medications included in these protocols may be supplied in concentrations or amounts other than those indicated. Regardless of the particular manner in which medications are supplied, equivalent total amounts must be present, and it is the EMS technician's responsibility to be certain that correct dosages are administered to patients.

Unless specified otherwise, generic and trade name products are considered interchangeable.

It is the responsibility of the individual EMS provider to make sure that all the stocked drugs are stored as per manufacturers specification. Documentation as to how drugs are stored may be requested by DSHS.

14. MULTIPLE PARALLEL PROTOCOLS:

It is understandable that patients may present with multiple problems that require simultaneous treatment. An example is a trauma patient that is having respiratory distress. In the past there has been a reluctance to implement more than one protocol during a patient encounter. Crews may simultaneously employ multiple protocols when appropriate. However, they must always be cognizant of cumulative and contradicting medications. All considerations cannot be presented here, and the occurrence of this necessity should be infrequent. Questions or clarifications are referred to the service director, peer reviewer, or medical director.

15. NON-EMS LICENSED/CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

On occasion, licensed or certified healthcare providers (nurses, respiratory therapists, physician assistants, etc.) may accompany the EMS crew in the back of an ambulance if it has been determined by the crew or by the transferring/receiving facility that patient care would be enhanced. The healthcare provider must obtain prior medical direction in event that care is to be rendered.

Physicians may provide patient care as described in the protocols under “unknown physician on scene”(P-13) or “patient’s physician on scene”(P-11).

Students may engage in patient care while under the direct supervision of an approved preceptor.

16. NO TRANSPORT CODES

Classification of calls in the SPEMS Region resulting in a patient not being transported should be noted on dispatch records as follows and documented in the patient care report:

1. N-1: Unfounded call / False call.
2. N-2: Duplicate call.
3. N-3: Injury noted, but patient refused transport.
4. N-4: Patient accepted treatment but refused transport.
5. N-5: EMS refused transport.
6. N-6: No injuries.
7. N-7: Transported by other means; should **only** be used if the patient left **prior** to EMS arrival or is in the custody of PD and is going to jail.
8. N-8: Dead On Scene

ALL CALLS REQUIRE A WRITTEN REPORT. ALL N-3, N-4, AND N-5 CALLS REQUIRE THAT THE SERVICE DIRECTOR OR (DESIGNEE) REVIEW THE WRITTEN REPORT.

17. “OPTIONAL” OR “RECOMMENDED”:

The word “optional” or “recommended” will occasionally be seen throughout the protocols in relation to a piece of equipment, specific treatment, or protocol. When “optional” follows a piece of equipment or specific treatment/protocol it is at the discretion of the individual service as to whether or not that equipment will be stocked or treatment performed. When “recommended” follows a piece of equipment or specific treatment/protocol it remains optional but is highly recommended by the medical director and will become mandatory with the next protocol year update.

18. PATIENT’S PHYSICIAN ON SCENE

1. Confirm that the physician present is, in fact, the patient’s personal physician. Inform the physician that medical control policy requires him to produce verification of his identity and training.
2. Inquire as to whether the physician is willing to assume responsibility for the patient’s treatment and is willing to physically accompany the patient to the hospital.
3. Before initiating any invasive treatment, establish radio contact with MEDICAL CONTROL; and, after advising the medical control physician of the usual information, advise that the patient’s physician is present; identify the physician; and have the physician and MEDICAL CONTROL discuss appropriate means of treatment of the patient while you monitor the conversation.
4. In the event of any conflict between orders given by the medical control physician and orders given by the physician on the scene, EMS technicians shall permit the patient’s physician to personally perform procedures or treatments which conflict with the orders of MEDICAL CONTROL. EMS technicians shall neither participate in nor administer any treatment to the patient under these circumstances, except as ordered by MEDICAL CONTROL.
5. Thoroughly document all occurrences

19. REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM RECEIVING AREA'S ALS SERVICE: If a patient's condition is unstable or deteriorates during transport and the patient would reasonably benefit from the presence of additional personnel, the regional EMS Communications Center or local dispatch should be contacted to coordinate the response of the closest available ALS unit or MICU. EMS providers will develop written mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities to facilitate coordination of backup responses. Copies of these agreements will be sent to the regional EMS Communications Center through the SPEMS office. The Medical Control physician may direct an ALS/MICU backup response whenever he believes this would be in the patient's best interest.

Air transport should be considered whenever the patient is possibly critically ill or injured and transport by air would expedite the patient's arrival at the hospital.

Patients who could potentially benefit by air transport include, but are not limited to:

- Multiple systems injury (Revised Trauma Score of ≤ 11).
- Patients whose injuries require care at Level I or Level II Trauma Center.
- Major injuries when prolonged extrication times are anticipated.
- Respiratory insufficiency, or labored at a rate < 10 or > 35 per minute.
- Hypotension with systolic BP < 90 mmHg.
- Coma or decreased level of consciousness.
- Patients who are potential candidates for thrombolytic or PCI therapy and transport time is > 25 minutes.
- Severe chest pain.
- Obstetric complications.
- Any patient who, in the opinion of the EMS technician, needs rapid transport to a facility where specialized treatment is available.

When air transport is requested, the request should be made as soon as the EMS technicians on the scene have performed the primary patient assessment and have determined that rapid transport to the hospital will be needed.

20. TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES

If transporting a patient to a receiving hospital out of your coverage area, you should do the following:

1. Bring a transfer form completed by the sending hospital.
2. Know the name of the receiving physician.
3. Request assistance from the receiving area's Advanced Life Support service if the patient's condition is unstable or his/her condition deteriorates while en route. EMS providers will develop written mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities to facilitate coordination of backup responses. Copies of these agreements will be sent to the Regional EMS Communications Center through the SPEMS office.
4. Contact Receiving Hospital **as soon as possible prior to arrival**, and re-establish contact any time patient's condition changes. Monitor patient's overall condition and vital signs every 5 to 10 minutes.
5. Notify Lubbock EMS dispatch on Med Channel 10 if transporting a patient into the City of Lubbock Code 3. Include sending hospital, city of origin, destination hospital, route traveling, patient severity, transport code, and estimated time of arrival.

During interfacility transfers SPEMS personnel should operate under the orders of the transferring physician, except where State statute or regulation dictate otherwise such as a physician written DNR. An attempt should be made to contact the transferring or receiving physician to dictate treatment if a decrease in the patient's condition occurs or at the onset of new complications which need to be immediately addressed. If contact is not possible, SPEMS personnel are authorized to operate under the existing SPEMS protocols. Personnel may also contact Medical Control at anytime. Include in your verbal as well as written report any changes in patient condition, orders received or treatment provided. Interfacility transfers include but are not limited to: Hospital to Hospital, Hospital to Specialized care centers and Hospitals to extended care facilities.

21. TRANSPORTATION OF MINORS

A minor is anyone under the age of 18 (with exceptions). Minors may not refuse transport. In those instances where the minor is refusing, and there is no parent or guardian present, Medical Control and/or Law Enforcement should be contacted for assistance.

Exceptions:

1. Emancipated from parents.
2. Pregnant
3. Active duty in the armed forces.

22. UNKNOWN PHYSICIAN ON SCENE

1. Inform the physician that medical control policy requires him to produce verification of his identity and training.
2. Inquire as to whether the physician is willing to assume responsibility for the patient's treatment and is willing to physically accompany the patient to the hospital.
3. Before initiating any invasive treatment, establish radio contact with MEDICAL CONTROL; and, after advising the medical control physician of the usual information, advise that a physician is present, identify the physician, and have the physician and MEDICAL CONTROL discuss appropriate means of treatment of the patient while you monitor the conversation.
4. In the event of any conflict between orders given by the medical control physician and orders given by the physician on the scene, the medical control physician shall prevail.
5. Thoroughly document all occurrences

23. VENTILATION:

Artificial breathing for a patient via mouth-to-mask, bag-valve-mask or demand valve, with high flow **oxygen**. An Oropharyngeal or Nasopharyngeal Airway should be used.

24. VITAL SIGNS:

- Blood Pressure (BP)
- Pulse (rate, regularity, quality)
- Respirations (rate, regularity, quality)
- Skin (color, temperature, moisture)
- Pupil Status (equal/unequal size, round, reactive to light)
- Level of Consciousness (alert, responds to voice or pain, unresponsive)
- Pulse Oximeter

TREATMENT PROCEDURES

AIRWAY MANAGEMENT:

Patients who show signs of inability to maintain an airway without assistance, should have an oral or nasopharyngeal airway placed.

The ECA should call for Paramedic backup with any patient requiring airway management.

ALS BACKUP:

Whenever a patient would reasonably benefit from ALS care (IV therapy, intubation, gastric tube placement, pleural decompression etc.), the Regional EMS Communications Center or local dispatch should be contacted to coordinate the response of the closest available ALS unit.

The medical control physician may direct an ALS backup response whenever he believes this would be in the best interest of the patient.

EMS providers will develop written mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities to facilitate coordination of backup responses. Copies of these agreements will be sent to the Regional EMS Communications Center through the SPEMS office.

CHEMICAL SEDATION / RESTRAINT

Chemical Restraint is a last resort for safely calming extremely agitated patients when the potential for harm to self or others exists. Agitation or acute behavioral disorders may manifest differently. **Always suspect an organic cause first.** Life-threatening organic conditions that may present with behavioral agitation are hypoglycemia, subdural hematoma, intercerebral hemorrhage, meningitis, hypertensive crisis, and drugs (especially atropine and cyclic antidepressants).

Basic Life Support

1. Request Law Enforcement assistance on any patient who requires chemical restraint.
2. Assess blood glucose to rule-out hypoglycemia.
3. **Request paramedic backup for possible chemical restraint.**

MAST:

MAST may be used for splinting of bilateral lower extremity fractures, OR for splinting of unstable pelvic fractures with signs and symptoms of hypovolemia.

NONSPECIFIC COMPLAINT:

If a patient's problem or chief complaint is not addressed by a specific algorithm (e.g. malaise or generalized weakness), the ECA should initiate appropriate Basic Life Support, perform a thorough patient assessment, and communicate the results of the assessment to Medical Control.

OXYGEN THERAPY:

C.O.P.D. patients may be oxygenated using a nasal cannula or a mask at flow rates needed to maintain an **oxygen** saturation of 90-92%. Do not attempt to obtain higher **oxygen** saturations because of the possibility of suppressing the hypoxic drive. Monitor level of consciousness carefully.

All other patients needing **oxygen** should receive it via non-rebreather or simple face mask. The highest possible **oxygen** saturation should be maintained. The nasal cannula generally should NOT be used in pre-hospital care.

When a bag-valve-mask is used to ventilate a patient, it should be connected to an **oxygen** reservoir and **oxygen** administered at ≥ 15 liters per minute.

PARAMEDIC BACKUP:

Whenever a patient would reasonably benefit from MICU care (EKG monitoring, drug therapy, defibrillation, or cricothyrotomy), the Regional EMS Communications Center or local dispatch should be contacted to coordinate the response of the closest available MICU.

The medical control physician may direct a paramedic backup response whenever he believes this would be in the best interest of the patient.

EMS providers will develop written mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities to facilitate coordination of backup responses. Copies of these agreements will be sent to the Regional EMS Communications Center through the SPEMS office.

REMOVAL OF A FOOTBALL HELMET:

In the event an injured football player must be transported, remove the facemask of the helmet to facilitate and secure a patent airway. If it is imperative that the helmet be removed prior to arrival at the emergency department, the shoulder pads SHOULD be removed simultaneously.

RESQPOD:

The use of the ResQPOD is for the adult patient in cardiac arrest. An adult patient is defined by AHA as one whom has reached puberty. ECAs who have been properly trained in the use of the ResQPOD should apply the device directly to the ventilation adjunct ie. (BVM, pocket mask etc.). The ResQPOD is not a ventilation device but provides its therapeutic benefit during chest compressions. Therefore it is necessary to maintain a good tight seal with the device during the chest compression phase of CPR as well as the ventilation phase of CPR. In the event that the patient resumes a pulse and/or spontaneous respirations the ResQPOD should be removed.

SEMI-AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATION:

Personnel who have received training for the use of the Semiautomatic External Defibrillator may apply and operate the device in cases of cardiac arrest.

TASER PROBE REMOVAL:

If an individual's EMS department policy grants EMS staff permission to remove taser probes, the EMS individual **MAY** make a single attempt to remove the probes. If the probes appear to be embedded in the bone, in a sensitive area, or it appears that the removal will be difficult, leave in place and treat as an impelled object. To lessen the risk of a needle stick type injury some type of gripping device (hemostats or pliers) should be used to facilitate the removal. The site should then be cleaned and bandaged as appropriate.

TRANSPORTATION:

Transportation to the hospital may begin at any time the EMS technician judges it to be appropriate, even though the words "Continue to Treat, Monitor and Transport" do not appear until the end of each algorithm.

With the exception of entrapment situations where extrication is required, time on the scene with unstable trauma patients should not exceed 10 minutes. If time on scene exceeds 10 minutes, the narrative should include justification. Emphasis should be placed on transporting these patients so they receive definitive hospital care within one hour of the time they were injured.

Since Basic Life Support alone is unlikely to result in the successful resuscitation of cardiac arrest unless followed promptly by Advanced Life Support, patients in cardiac arrest should be transported as soon as possible. The Regional EMS Communications Center or local dispatch should be contacted to coordinate a response by the closest available MICU unit.

Air transport should be considered whenever its use would expedite a critical patient's arrival at the hospital. The Medical Control physician may order transport of a patient to begin at any time during a treatment procedure.

TREATMENT FOR SHOCK:

- Assure Airway, Breathing, Circulation, and control of Bleeding (ABCs)
- Insert oropharyngeal/nasopharyngeal airway if patient is unconscious
- Administer high flow **oxygen**
- Maintain patient's body temperature
- Elevate lower extremities
- Give nothing by mouth

TREATMENT FOR SNAKEBITES:

- Cool, Calm environment
- Supportive Measures
- Extremity at heart level
- Zero degree elevation
- No ice or constricting bands

UNCONTROLLED HEMORRHAGE MANAGED WITH A HEMOSTATIC AGENT

At times, in addition to direct pressure it may be necessary to apply a Hemostatic agent to assist in bleeding control. Two different brands of Hemostatic agents may be used to accomplish this:

A. QUICKCLOT (optional) (Must be the heat free formulas as noted below)

- Combat Gauze, is a 3in X 4yrd roll of heat free hemostatic gauze
- ACS+, is a heat free hemostatic sponge

B. CELOX (optional)(will be discontinued on 2/1/2012) is Chitosan-base and its granules assist in clot formation. It has no identified adverse reaction.

1. Blot excess blood from wound with gauze pad
2. Apply the desired Hemostatic agent as directed on package
3. Apply FIRM direct pressure to wound for 5 minutes. (if bleeding persists, apply direct pressure for an additional 5 minutes)
4. Apply pressure dressing
5. Deliver empty Hemostatic agent packaging to accepting physician

Instructions for the use of QuickClot and Celox are printed on its package

PRE-HOSPITAL MEDICATIONS

INHALED MEDICATIONS

Oxygen

ORAL MEDICATIONS

Oral Glucose 15g tube (Page 12)

INTRAMUSCULAR MEDICATIONS

Epinephrine Auto-Injector (Adult), 0.3mg/unit (Page 10)

Epinephrine Auto-Injector (Pediatric), 0.15mg/unit (Page 10)

Epinephrine (1:1000) 1mg/1cc (Appropriate training and testing must be documented prior to administration) (Page 10)

Services under SPEMS medical direction may carry Epinephrine Auto-Injectors to accommodate both adult and pediatric patients **AND/OR** Epinephrine (1:1,000) 1mg/1cc. However, Epinephrine (1:1,000) can only be carried if all active ECA's, EMT's and Intermediates are appropriately trained on IM injections (and the standing Allergic Reaction Protocol). This training must be documented including location, date, and time. Documentation must be readily accessible upon inspection

DECISION-MAKING IN CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION

The current standard of care requires that resuscitation be implemented when two conditions are fulfilled:

1. There is the possibility that the brain is viable.
2. There is no medically or legally legitimate reason to withhold resuscitation.

RESUSCITATION EFFORTS SHOULD BE WITHHELD ONLY IF A PATIENT IS APNEIC AND PULSELESS AND ONE OF THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS EXISTS:

1. The patient is decapitated.
2. Rigor mortis is present.
3. Dependent lividity is present.
4. Evidence of tissue decomposition is present.
5. Massive trauma to the head, neck or thorax, clearly incompatible with life, is present.
6. In a multiple casualty situation there are inadequate numbers of trained personnel to initiate resuscitation while providing life-saving care to other patients.
7. A written Texas Department of State Health Services Out of Hospital DO NOT RESUSCITATE (OOH DNR) is available for immediate inspection by the EMS technicians. (Refer to the Do Not Resuscitate Section)
8. The patient is wearing the state-approved DNR bracelet and/or necklace bearing the official Out-of hospital DNR logo. (Refer to the Do Not Resuscitate Section)
9. Out-of-Hospital DNR Order forms executed in another state or devices authorized by another state as describe in the Do Not Resuscitate Section. (Refer to the Do Not Resuscitate Section)
10. The patient's attending physician is at the scene of the emergency and orders the EMS personnel to withhold resuscitation efforts.
11. If no written TDSH OOH DNR order is available, the decision to withhold resuscitation efforts may be made by the Emergency Department physician if requested by one persons of the following list if available, in the following priority:
 - a) The patient's spouse;
 - b) A majority of the patient's reasonably available adult children;
 - c) The patient's parents; or
 - d) The patient's nearest living relative.
12. The Emergency Department Physician at the receiving hospital orders EMS personnel, via radio, not to initiate or to terminate resuscitation efforts.

In cases involving a request by family members to withhold resuscitation efforts, you should also include documentation of the request, and names and relationships of the persons making the request. **ALL** EMS personnel present should sign documentation.

NOTE: The patient's private physician, upon learning of EMS involvement in the resuscitation efforts of one of his/her patient's, should contact the receiving Emergency Department's physician and relay any orders to withhold resuscitation efforts to the Emergency Department physician, since EMS cannot accept these "Do Not Resuscitate" orders directly from the private physician via telephone.

If, at anytime, EMS personnel question the legitimacy of the request to withhold resuscitation efforts, or if there are any indications of unnatural or suspicious circumstances, resuscitation efforts should be initiated, but limited to BLS, until such time as Medical Control is contacted and the Emergency Department physician directs otherwise.

IF ANY DOUBT WHATSOEVER EXISTS, RESUSCITATE!

In the pre-hospital setting, EMS Technicians shall not delegate the decision to initiate or withhold resuscitation to other individuals under any circumstances.

Once initiated, BLS shall continue until one of the following occurs:

1. Effective spontaneous circulation and ventilation have been restored.
2. A physician at the receiving medical facility pronounces the patient dead.
3. On-line Medical Control orders termination of resuscitation efforts.
4. Attending physician arrives on scene and orders termination.
5. A legitimate TDSHS Out of Hospital DNR is presented to ambulance personnel. (Refer to the Do Not Resuscitate Section)
6. A legitimate Out-of-Hospital DNR Order forms executed in another state is presented to ambulance personnel. (Refer to the Do Not Resuscitate Section)

EXCEPT AS DESCRIBED ABOVE, UNDER NO OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES WILL THE DECISION TO TERMINATE RESUSCITATION BE MADE BY A NON-PHYSICIAN!

EMS personnel should remember that some patients might appear to be dead and not responsive to resuscitation efforts while actually being potential candidates for successful resuscitation. Therefore, if any doubt exists concerning the patient's potential resuscitation by any of the EMS personnel present, resuscitation efforts should be initiated immediately. The following types of patients should receive special consideration for resuscitation since cases have been documented in which these, and other patients, have been successfully resuscitated following the apparent "death" of the patient:

1. Hypothermia
2. Hypoglycemia
3. Acute drug overdoses
4. Poisonings
5. Pediatric patients
6. Drowning
7. Unwitnessed (by trained medical personnel) cardiac and/or respiratory arrest

DO NOT RESUSCITATE ORDERS

When dealing with Do Not Resuscitate Orders, the following guidelines shall be followed:

ACCEPT ANY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING AS PROOF OF A VALID OOH DNR ORDER:

Texas Out-of-Hospital Do-Not-Resuscitate Order Form (OOH DNR)

Note: There is now a new TDSHS form for DNRs. Either the new or the old form is acceptable. A copy of both forms is on subsequent pages.

The Texas OOH DNR Order form is a single page form with the Texas DNR logo printed at the top in red or black. The original or a photocopy is acceptable. A copy of these forms is on subsequent pages. The form is considered valid if:

1. One of the six sections have been filled out and signed appropriately. **Note:** Electronic signatures are acceptable. (Only one completed section is required)
 - a. Section A: Declaration of the adult person
 - b. Section B: Declaration by legal guardian, agent or proxy on behalf of the adult person is incompetent or otherwise incapable of communication
 - c. Section C: Declaration by a qualified relative of the adult person who is incompetent or otherwise incapable of communication
 - d. Section D: Declaration by physician based on directive to physicians by a person now incompetent or otherwise incapable of communication
 - e. Section E: Declaration on behalf of the minor person
 - f. Section F: Directive by two physicians on behalf of the adult, who is incompetent or unable to communicate and without guardian, agent, proxy or relative. (**Note:** if this section is utilized, no signature of witnesses or notary are required)
2. All relevant portions have been completed.
3. Signatures of two witnesses or notary are present; except when section F is utilized (No witness or notary signature is required for Section F). **Note:** Electronic signatures are acceptable
4. There appears to be no reason to question its authenticity.

Texas OOH DNR Order Bracelet

Two types of OOH DNR Order bracelets are valid:

1. A plastic, hospital-type bracelet that is white in color and has the DNR logo printed in red, as is on the front of the OOH DNR Order form. No other identifying information is printed on this bracelet.
2. A stainless steel bracelet similar to the "Medic Alert" bracelets, containing the same DNR logo as on the front of the OOH DNR Order form, or the words "Texas Do Not Resuscitate – OOH".

When either bracelet is found around the patient's wrist, honor it as if it were a valid OOH DNR Order Form. Do not honor a bracelet that is not attached to the patient. Do not remove the bracelet from the patient, even when the patient is deceased.

Texas OOH DNR Order Necklace

The OOH DNR Order necklace is made of a stainless steel chain, 16 - 18 inches in length with a one-inch diameter disk attached. The disk has the same DNR logo as is on the front of the DNR Order form. When found around the patient's neck, honor this necklace as if it were a valid paper OOH DNR Order form. Do not honor a necklace that is not attached to the patient. Do not remove the necklace from the patient, even when the patient is deceased.

Out-of-State DNR Orders

Personnel may accept Out-of-Hospital DNR Order forms executed in another state or devices authorized by another state, if:

1. The order appears to be on an official, state-mandated form.
2. The order appears complete (all relevant portions of the form filled in) and valid.
3. There appears to be no reason to question the authenticity of the DNR Order form or device.

Should there be a question regarding an out-of-state DNR Order, initiate resuscitation and contact an on-line medical control physician.

DOCUMENTS THAT MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED:

Do Not Accept:

1. Do Not Resuscitate Orders that do not reasonably appear to be on an official, state-mandated form.
2. Advanced Directives, Directives to Physicians, Living Wills, A Physician's DNR Order in any form not noted above (such as one written by a physician, physician's assistant, or a nurse practitioner).

Texas OOH DNR Orders and Out-of-State DNR Orders Should Not be Honored when:

1. A competent patient, including a competent minor, communicates to EMS personnel a desire to revoke an OOH DNR Order.
2. A person having a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care for the patient or the attending physician, legal guardian, parent (if a minor), or qualified relative, as defined in the TDSHS OOH DNR form, communicates to EMS personnel a desire to revoke an OOH DNR Order.
3. The patient is pregnant.
4. The patient cannot be conclusively identified as the patient named on the OOH DNR Order form.
5. There is an airway obstruction.
6. Unnatural or suspicious circumstances are present; including suicide attempt.

If doubt exists as to whether an OOH DNR Order should be honored, initiate resuscitation until:

1. A valid OOH DNR Order is found. NOTE: If a valid OOH DNR is presented, after resuscitation has been initiated, resuscitation efforts may be discontinued so long as the validity is not in question or one of the 5 preceding conditions are not found.
2. A Medical Control physician orders that resuscitation be stopped, or
3. Patient care is transferred to a higher level.

COMPLIANCE WITH OOH DNR ORDER:

NOTE: OOH DNR applies only *AFTER* the cessation of spontaneous respirations or circulation or in the judgment of the pre-hospital provider, the moment of death is at hand.

1. If the patient is found in or develops cardiac and/or respiratory arrest, honor the OOH DNR Order by withholding CPR, placement of advanced airway devices (including ET tube and King Airway), artificial ventilation, placement of the AED, manual defibrillation, and transcutaneous cardiac pacing.
2. If an OOH DNR Order is found or presented after the patient assessment and/or treatment has begun, stop the resuscitative treatment immediately – even if a positive response has occurred.

3. If an OOH DNR Order appears to be valid and the patient is not in cardiac or respiratory arrest, provide care directed toward providing comfort, such as opening the patient's airway, providing oxygen, IV fluids or medications, or any other treatment needed except for advanced airway placement, artificial ventilation, defibrillation, and cardiac pacing. NOTE: Assisting ventilations for a breathing patient with a BVM device is NOT a violation of an OOH DNR and should be performed if needed.
4. The original OOH DNR Order form or a photocopy may be honored.
5. If the patient is transported, the OOH DNR Order form must accompany the patient; the bracelet or necklace must be on the patient.
6. The original or a photocopy of the form should be kept and filed with the pre-hospital patient care report.

DOCUMENTATION:

When a patient in cardiac or respiratory arrest is encountered and an OOH DNR Order form is presented, the following must be documented on the pre-hospital patient care report:

1. An assessment of the patient's condition.
2. Whether or not the OOH DNR Form was honored. If the form was not honored, a full explanation of the reasons and circumstances must be documented
3. The type OOH DNR Order (form, bracelet or necklace) used to confirm the DNR status.
4. Any problems regarding implementing the DNR Order, including on scene revocation.
5. The name of the patient's attending physician from the OOH DNR form.
6. The original or a photocopy of the form should be kept and filed with the pre-hospital patient care report.

SUMMARY

- ONLY the TDSHS OOH DNR or other state (other than Texas) issued DNR may be accepted
- OOH DNR applies to out-of-hospital settings including ERs, Nursing Homes, Physician's offices, clinics, dialysis centers, private residences, etc.
- OOH DNR applies only AFTER the cessation of spontaneous respirations or circulation
EXCEPT: Airway obstruction
Suspicious Circumstances
Suicide, homicide, or other unnatural causes of death
Pregnant patients
Patient or guardian state desire not to follow DNR
- Interventions to be withheld are:
 - CPR
 - Advanced Airways (Intubation and King Airway)
 - Artificial ventilation (does not pertain to assisting ventilations on a breathing patient)
 - Defibrillation (includes AED)
 - Transcutaneous cardiac pacing
- If uncertain, err on side of resuscitation until status can be clarified
- The OOH DNR device (form, bracelet, or necklace) should be left attached to and transported with the patient
- Out-of-state DNR may be honored if no reason to question the authenticity of the order or device exists



Figure: 25 TAC §157.25 (b)(2)

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES
STANDARD OUT-OF-HOSPITAL DO-NOT-RESUSCITATE ORDER

Page 1 of 2

This document becomes effective immediately on the date of execution. It remains in effect until the patient is pronounced dead by authorized medical or legal authority or the document is revoked. Comfort measures will be given as needed.

All persons who sign the form must sign again under number 3.

1. Patient's full legal name — printed or typed Date of Birth: Male/Female (Circle One)

2. COMPLETE ONE OF THE FOUR BOXES: A, B, C, or D. If using Box A, B, or C, Witnesses and Physician's Statement must be completed.

A. Patient's Statement: I, the undersigned, am an adult capable of making an informed decision regarding the withholding or withdrawing of CPR, including the treatments listed below, and I direct that none of the following resuscitation measures be initiated or continued: Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Transcutaneous Cardiac Pacing, Defibrillation, Advanced Airway Management, Artificial Ventilation.

Signature Date Printed or Typed Name

B. Only use this box if the order is being completed by a person acting on behalf of an adult patient who is incompetent or otherwise unable to make his or her wishes known.

I am the patient's: legal guardian; agent under Medical Power of Attorney; or Qualified Relative (see back); AND:

- I attest to issuance of an Out-of-Hospital DNR by the patient by nonwritten means of communication; OR
I am acting under the guidance of a prior Directive to Physicians; OR
I am acting upon the known values and desires of the patient; OR
I am acting in the patient's best interest based upon the guidance given by the patient's physician.

I direct that none of the following resuscitation measures be initiated or continued on behalf of the patient: Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Transcutaneous Cardiac Pacing, Defibrillation, Advanced Airway Management, Artificial Ventilation.

Signature Date Printed or Typed Name

C. Only use this box if the order is being completed by a person acting on behalf of a minor patient who has been diagnosed with a terminal or irreversible condition.

I am the minor patient's: Parent; legal guardian; or managing conservator.

I direct that none of the following resuscitation measures be initiated or continued on behalf of the patient: Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Transcutaneous Cardiac Pacing, Defibrillation, Advanced Airway Management, Artificial Ventilation.

Signature Date Printed or Typed Name

WITNESSES: (see qualifications on reverse) We have witnessed all of the above signatures.

Witness 1 Signature Date Witness Printed or Typed Name
Witness 2 Signature Date Witness Printed or Typed Name

PHYSICIAN'S STATEMENT: I, the undersigned, am the attending physician of the patient named above. I have noted the existence of this order in the patient's medical records, and I direct out-of-hospital health care professionals to comply with this order as presented.

Date Physician's signature Printed name License number

D. Only use this box if the order is being completed by two physicians acting on behalf of an adult who is incompetent or otherwise unable to make his or her wishes known, and who is without a legal guardian, agent, or qualified relative.

- I attest to issuance of an Out-of-Hospital DNR by the patient by nonwritten communication; OR:
The patient's specific wishes are unknown, but resuscitation measures are, in reasonable medical judgement, considered ineffective in these circumstances or are otherwise not in the best interest of the patient.

I direct that none of the following resuscitation measures be initiated or continued on behalf of the patient: Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Transcutaneous Cardiac Pacing, Defibrillation, Advanced Airway Management, Artificial Ventilation.

Signature Treating Physician Date Printed or Typed Name
Signature Second Physician who is not involved in treating the patient Date Printed or Typed Name

3. ALL PERSONS WHO SIGNED MUST SIGN HERE (Pursuant to H&SC 166.083(b)(13). This document has been properly completed.

Signature of Patient, Agent or Relative (A, B, or C) Signature of Second Physician (D) Signature of Attending Physician
Signature of Witness Signature of Witness Date

SHOULD TRANSPORT OCCUR, THIS DOCUMENT OR A COPY MUST ACCOMPANY THE PATIENT.

The Older Version of the TDSHS Out-of-Hospital (OOH) DNR Form: Front Side

OUT-OF-HOSPITAL DNR INSTRUCTIONS

PURPOSE:

This form was designed to comply with the requirements as set forth in Chapter 166 of the Health and Safety Code (H&SC) relating to the issuance of Out-of-Hospital Do-Not-Resuscitate (DNR) orders for the purpose of instructing Emergency Medical Personnel and other health care professionals to forgo resuscitation attempts and to permit the patient to have a natural death with peace and dignity. This order does NOT affect the provision of other emergency care including comfort care.

APPLICABILITY:

This form applies to all health care professionals operating in any out-of-hospital setting to include hospital outpatient or emergency departments and physician's offices.

IMPLEMENTATION:

A competent adult may execute or issue an Out-of-Hospital DNR Order. The patient's attending physician will document the existence of the directive in the patient's permanent medical record.

If an adult patient is capable of providing informed consent for the order, he/she will sign and date the out-of-hospital DNR order on the front of this sheet in Box A. In the event that an adult patient is unable to provide informed consent, his/her Legal Guardian, agent under Medical Power of Attorney, or Qualified Relative may execute the order by signing and dating the form in Box B. If an adult patient is unable to provide informed consent and none of the persons listed in Box B are available, the treating physician may execute the order using Box D with the consent of a second physician who is not treating the patient and/or is a member of the health care facility ethics committee or other medical committee.

The following persons may execute an out-of-hospital DNR order on behalf of a minor: the minor's parents, the minor's legal guardian or the minor's managing conservator. A person executing a DNR order on behalf of a minor may execute the order by signing and dating the form in Box C. **An out-of-hospital DNR order may not be executed unless the minor has been diagnosed by a physician as suffering from a terminal or irreversible condition.**

The form must be signed and dated by two witnesses except when executed by two physicians only (Box D).

The original standard Texas Out-of-Hospital DNR form must be completed and properly executed. Duplicates may be made by the patient, health care provider organization or attending physician as necessary. **Copies of this completed document may be used for any purpose that the original may be used and shall be honored by responding health care professionals.**

The presence of a Texas DNR identification device on a person is sufficient evidence that the individual has a valid Out-of-Hospital DNR Order. Therefore, either the original standard form, a copy of the completed standard form, or the device is sufficient evidence of the existence of the order.

For information on ordering identification devices or additional forms, contact the Texas Department of State Health Services at (512) 834-6700.

REVOCAION:

The Out-of-Hospital Do-Not-Resuscitate Order may be revoked at ANY time by the patient OR the patient's Legal Guardian/Agent/Managing Conservator/Qualified Relative, Parent (if a minor), or physician who executed the order. The revocation may involve the communication of wishes to responding health care professionals, destruction of the form, or removal of all or any Do-Not-Resuscitate identification devices the patient may possess.

AUTOMATIC REVOCAION: This Out-of-Hospital DNR order is automatically revoked if the patient is known to be pregnant or in the case of unnatural or suspicious circumstances.

DEFINITIONS:

Attending Physician: The physician who is selected by or assigned to a patient who has primary responsibility for a person's treatment and care and is licensed by the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners or who is properly credentialed and holds a commission in the uniformed services of the United States and who is serving on active duty in this state. (H&SC 166.002 (3) & (12))

Qualified Relatives: Those persons authorized to execute or issue an out-of-hospital DNR order on behalf of a person who is comatose, incompetent, or otherwise mentally or physically incapable of communication under Section 166.088 H&SC Section 166.088 refers to 166.039; "One person, if available, from one of the following categories, in the following priority...: (1) The patient's spouse; (2) the patient's reasonably available adult children; (3) the patient's parents; or (4) the patient's nearest living relative."

Health Care Professional: Means physicians, nurses, physician assistants and emergency medical services personnel, and, unless the context requires otherwise, includes hospital emergency department personnel. (H&SC 166.081 (5))

Witnesses: Two competent adult witnesses must sign the form acknowledging the signature of the patient or the person(s) acting on the patient's behalf (except when signed by two physicians in Section C). Witness One must meet the qualifications listed below. Witness Two may be any competent adult. Witness One (the "qualified" witness) may not be: (1) person designated to make a treatment decision for the patient; (2) related to the patient by blood or marriage; (3) entitled to any part of the estate; (4) be a person who has a claim against the estate of the patient; (5) the attending physician or an employee of the attending physician; (6) an employee of a health care facility in which the patient is being cared for, if he or she is involved in providing direct patient care to the patient; or (7) an officer, director, partner, or business office employee of a health care facility in which the patient is being cared for or any parent organization of the health care facility.

Please report any problems with this form to the Texas Department of State Health Services at (512) 834-6700.

Revised July 19, 2005
Texas Department of State Health Services

The Older Version of the TDSHS Out-of-Hospital (OOH) DNR Form: Back Side

Figure: 25 TAC §157.25 (h)(2)

OUT-OF-HOSPITAL DO-NOT-RESUSCITATE (OOH-DNR) ORDER

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

Print Form



This document becomes effective immediately on the date of execution for health care professionals acting in out-of-hospital settings. It remains in effect until the person is pronounced dead by authorized medical or legal authority or the document is revoked. Comfort care will be given as needed.

Person's full legal name _____ Date of birth _____ Male Female

A. Declaration of the adult person: I am competent and at least 18 years of age. I direct that none of the following resuscitation measures be initiated or continued for me: **cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), transcutaneous cardiac pacing, defibrillation, advanced airway management, artificial ventilation.**

Person's signature _____ Date _____ Printed name _____

B. Declaration by legal guardian, agent or proxy on behalf of the adult person who is incompetent or otherwise incapable of communication:

I am the: legal guardian; agent in a Medical Power of Attorney; OR proxy in a directive to physicians of the above-noted person who is incompetent or otherwise mentally or physically incapable of communication.

Based upon the known desires of the person, or a determination of the best interest of the person, I direct that none of the following resuscitation measures be initiated or continued for the person: **cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), transcutaneous cardiac pacing, defibrillation, advanced airway management, artificial ventilation.**

Signature _____ Date _____ Printed name _____

C. Declaration by a qualified relative of the adult person who is incompetent or otherwise incapable of communication: I am the above-noted person's:

spouse, adult child, parent, OR nearest living relative, and I am qualified to make this treatment decision under Health and Safety Code §166.088.

To my knowledge the adult person is incompetent or otherwise mentally or physically incapable of communication and is without a legal guardian, agent or proxy. Based upon the known desires of the person or a determination of the best interests of the person, I direct that none of the following resuscitation measures be initiated or continued for the person: **cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), transcutaneous cardiac pacing, defibrillation, advanced airway management, artificial ventilation.**

Signature _____ Date _____ Printed name _____

D. Declaration by physician based on directive to physicians by a person now incompetent or nonwritten communication to the physician by a competent person: I am the above-noted person's attending physician and have:

seen evidence of his/her previously issued directive to physicians by the adult, now incompetent; OR observed his/her issuance before two witnesses of an OOH-DNR in a nonwritten manner.

I direct that none of the following resuscitation measures be initiated or continued for the person: **cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), transcutaneous cardiac pacing, defibrillation, advanced airway management, artificial ventilation.**

Attending physician's signature _____ Date _____ Printed name _____ Lic # _____

E. Declaration on behalf of the minor person: I am the minor's: parent; legal guardian; OR managing conservator.

A physician has diagnosed the minor as suffering from a terminal or irreversible condition. I direct that none of the following resuscitation measures be initiated or continued for the person: **cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), transcutaneous cardiac pacing, defibrillation, advanced airway management, artificial ventilation.**

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed name _____

TWO WITNESSES: (See qualifications on backside.) We have witnessed the above-noted competent adult person or authorized declarant making his/her signature above and, if applicable, the above-noted adult person making an OOH-DNR by nonwritten communication to the attending physician.

Witness 1 signature _____ Date _____ Printed name _____

Witness 2 signature _____ Date _____ Printed name _____

Notary in the State of Texas and County of _____. The above noted person personally appeared before me and signed the above noted declaration on this date: _____

Signature & seal: _____ Notary's printed name: _____ Notary Seal

[Note: Notary cannot acknowledge the witnessing of the person making an OOH-DNR order in a nonwritten manner]

PHYSICIAN'S STATEMENT: I am the attending physician of the above-noted person and have noted the existence of this order in the person's medical records. I direct health care professionals acting in out-of-hospital settings, including a hospital emergency department, not to initiate or continue for the person: **cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), transcutaneous cardiac pacing, defibrillation, advanced airway management, artificial ventilation.**

Physician's signature _____ Date _____
Printed name _____ License # _____

F. Directive by two physicians on behalf of the adult, who is incompetent or unable to communicate and without guardian, agent, proxy or relative: The person's specific wishes are unknown, but resuscitation measures are, in reasonable medical judgment, considered ineffective or are otherwise not in the best interests of the person. I direct health care professionals acting in out-of-hospital settings, including a hospital emergency department, not to initiate or continue for the person: **cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), transcutaneous cardiac pacing, defibrillation, advanced airway management, artificial ventilation.**

Attending physician's signature _____ Date _____ Printed name _____ Lic# _____

Signature of second physician _____ Date _____ Printed name _____ Lic# _____

Physician's electronic or digital signature must meet criteria listed in Health and Safety Code §166.082(c).

All persons who have signed above must sign below, acknowledging that this document has been properly completed.

Person's signature _____ Guardian/Agent/Proxy/Relative signature _____

Attending physician's signature _____ Second physician's signature _____

Witness 1 signature _____ Witness 2 signature _____ Notary's signature _____

This document or a copy thereof must accompany the person during his/her medical transport.

The Newer Version of the TDSHS Out-of-Hospital (OOH) DNR Form: Front Side

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ISSUING AN OOH-DNR ORDER

PURPOSE: The Out-of-Hospital Do-Not-Resuscitate (OOH-DNR) Order on reverse side complies with Health and Safety Code (HSC), Chapter 166 for use by qualified persons or their authorized representatives to direct health care professionals to forgo resuscitation attempts and to permit the person to have a natural death with peace and dignity. This Order does NOT affect the provision of other emergency care, including comfort care.

APPLICABILITY: This OOH-DNR Order applies to health care professionals in out-of-hospital settings, including physicians' offices, hospital clinics and emergency departments.

IMPLEMENTATION: A competent adult person, at least 18 years of age, or the person's authorized representative or qualified relative may execute or issue an OOH-DNR Order. The person's attending physician will document existence of the Order in the person's permanent medical record. The OOH-DNR Order may be executed as follows:

Section A - If an adult person is competent and at least 18 years of age, he/she will sign and date the Order in Section A.

Section B - If an adult person is incompetent or otherwise mentally or physically incapable of communication and has either a legal guardian, agent in a medical power of attorney, or proxy in a directive to physicians, the guardian, agent, or proxy may execute the OOH-DNR Order by signing and dating it in Section B.

Section C - If the adult person is incompetent or otherwise mentally or physically incapable of communication and does not have a guardian, agent, or proxy, then a qualified relative may execute the OOH-DNR Order by signing and dating it in Section C.

Section D - If the person is incompetent and his/her attending physician has seen evidence of the person's previously issued proper directive to physicians or observed the person competently issue an OOH-DNR Order in a nonwritten manner, the physician may execute the Order on behalf of the person by signing and dating it in Section D.

Section E - If the person is a minor (less than 18 years of age), who has been diagnosed by a physician as suffering from a terminal or irreversible condition, then the minor's parents, legal guardian, or managing conservator may execute the OOH-DNR Order by signing and dating it in Section E.

Section F - If an adult person is incompetent or otherwise mentally or physically incapable of communication and does not have a guardian, agent, proxy, or available qualified relative to act on his/her behalf, then the attending physician may execute the OOH-DNR Order by signing and dating it in Section F with concurrence of a second physician (signing it in Section F) who is not involved in the treatment of the person or who is not a representative of the ethics or medical committee of the health care facility in which the person is a patient.

In addition, the OOH-DNR Order must be signed and dated by two competent adult witnesses, who have witnessed either the competent adult person making his/her signature in section A, or authorized declarant making his/her signature in either sections B, C, or E, and if applicable, have witnessed a competent adult person making an OOH-DNR Order by nonwritten communication to the attending physician, who must sign in Section D and also the physician's statement section.

Optionally, a competent adult person or authorized declarant may sign the OOH-DNR Order in the presence of a notary public. However, a notary cannot acknowledge witnessing the issuance of an OOH-DNR in a nonwritten manner, which must be observed and only can be acknowledged by two qualified witnesses. Witness or notary signatures are not required when two physicians execute the OOH-DNR Order in section F. The original or a copy of a fully and properly completed OOH-DNR Order or the presence of an OOH-DNR device on a person is sufficient evidence of the existence of the original OOH-DNR Order and either one shall be honored by responding health care professionals.

REVOCACTION: An OOH-DNR Order may be revoked at ANY time by the person, person's authorized representative, or physician who executed the order. Revocation can be by verbal communication to responding health care professionals, destruction of the OOH-DNR Order, or removal of all OOH-DNR identification devices from the person.

AUTOMATIC REVOCACTION: An OOH-DNR Order is automatically revoked for a person known to be pregnant or in the case of unnatural or suspicious circumstances.

DEFINITIONS

Attending Physician: A physician, selected by or assigned to a person, with primary responsibility for the person's treatment and care and is licensed by the Texas Medical Board, or is properly credentialed and holds a commission in the uniformed services of the United States and is serving on active duty in this state. [HSC §166.002(12)].

Health Care Professional: Means physicians, nurses, physician assistants and emergency medical services personnel, and, unless the context requires otherwise, includes hospital emergency department personnel. [HSC §166.081(5)]

Qualified Relative: A person meeting requirements of HSC §166.088. It states that an adult relative may execute an OOH-DNR Order on behalf of an adult person who has not executed or issued an OOH-DNR Order and is incompetent or otherwise mentally or physically incapable of communication and is without a legal guardian, agent in a medical power of attorney, or proxy in a directive to physicians, and the relative is available from one of the categories in the following priority: 1) person's spouse; 2) person's reasonably available adult children; 3) the person's parents; or, 4) the person's nearest living relative. Such qualified relative may execute an OOH-DNR Order on such described person's behalf.

Qualified Witnesses: Both witnesses must be competent adults, who have witnessed the competent adult person making his/her signature in section A, or person's authorized representatives making his/her signature in either Sections B, C, or E on the OOH-DNR Order, or if applicable, have witnessed the competent adult person making an OOH-DNR by nonwritten communication to the attending physician, who signs in Section D. Optionally, a competent adult person, guardian, agent, proxy, or qualified relative may sign the OOH-DNR Order in the presence of a notary instead of two qualified witnesses. Witness or notary signatures are not required when two physicians execute the order by signing Section F. One of the witnesses must meet the qualifications in HSC §166.003(2), which requires that at least one of the witnesses not: (1) be designated by the person to make a treatment decision; (2) be related to the person by blood or marriage; (3) be entitled to any part of the person's estate after the person's death either under a will or by law; (4) have a claim at the time of the issuance of the OOH-DNR against any part of the person's estate after the person's death; or, (5) be the attending physician; (6) be an employee of the attending physician or (7) an employee of a health care facility in which the person is a patient if the employee is providing direct patient care to the patient or is an officer, director, partner, or business office employee of the health care facility or any parent organization of the health care facility.

Report problems with this form to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) or order OOH-DNR Order/forms or identification devices at (512) 834-6700.

Declarant's, Witness', Notary's, or Physician's electronic or digital signature must meet criteria outlined in HSC §166.011

CARDIAC TRIAGE/TRANSPORT DECISION SCHEME

Patients who meet triage criteria for activation of the Regional Cardiac Plan should be transported to the **CLOSEST PCI CAPABLE FACILITY** or the **CLOSEST APPROPRIATE ACUTE CARE FACILITY** according to the plan guidelines with special consideration under the following circumstances:

1. If an adequate airway cannot be established and/or maintained or if the patient goes into cardiac arrest, has malignant cardiac dysrhythmias, or is acutely unstable, the patient should be transported to the **NEAREST ACUTE CARE FACILITY**.
2. Medical Control may order bypass in any situation as appropriate, such as when a facility is unable to meet hospital resource criteria, or when a patient is in need of specialty care.
3. If expected transport time is excessive (>25 minutes) activation of air transport should be considered.
4. If there is a question on whether or not to bypass a facility, on-line medical control should be contacted for the final decision.

Patients who are suspected of ACS or ECG confirmed STEMI patients should be transported to "PCI" Percutaneous Coronary Intervention Capable Facilities (Angioplasty, stent placement, or other intervention performed in the cath. lab) or the Closest Appropriate Acute Care Facility.

An Acute Care Facility may be considered appropriate if all of the following standards of care can be provided.

- A 12-lead ECG can be performed and interpreted within 10 minutes.
- PCI may be performed within 90 minutes or a thrombolytic can be administered within 30 minutes.

PCI is the preferred method of reperfusion if possible.

This plan is based on accepted best practice guidelines, but does allow for patient and physician preference.

A copy of the Regional Cardiac Plan as well as a current list of EMS Providers, Facility Capabilities and Designated Centers may be accessed at www.spems.org

STROKE TRIAGE/TRANSPORT DECISION SCHEME

Patients who meet triage criteria for activation of the Regional Stroke Plan should be transported to the **CLOSEST HIGHEST DESIGNATED STROKE FACILITY** or the **CLOSEST APPROPRIATE ACUTE CARE FACILITY** according to the plan guidelines with special consideration under the following circumstances:

1. If an adequate airway cannot be established and/or maintained or if the patient goes into cardiac arrest, has malignant cardiac dysrhythmias, or is acutely unstable, the patient should be transported to the **NEAREST ACUTE CARE FACILITY**.
2. Medical Control may order bypass in any situation as appropriate, such as when a facility is unable to meet hospital resource criteria, or when a patient is in need of specialty care.
3. If expected transport time is excessive (>25 minutes) activation of air transport should be considered.
4. If there is a question on whether or not to bypass a facility, on-line medical control should be contacted for the final decision.

TRANSPORTATION SHOULD BE BASED ON THE TIME OF ONSET OF SYMPTOMS

Patients with an onset of **STROKE SYMPTOMS < 3 HOURS** should be taken to the highest designated stroke facility for treatment and evaluation for interventional care.

A non-designated facility may be appropriate if all the following standards of care can be provided:

- ◆ Interpreted computed tomography (CT) imaging scan is available within 45 minutes of patient arrival
- ◆ Thrombolytics can be administered within 60 minutes of patient arrival
- ◆ Physician is available within 10 minutes of patient arrival

Patients with an onset of stroke **SYMPTOMS OCCURRING >3 HOURS** should be transported to the nearest acute care facility for initial diagnosis and treatment. Similarly, a non-designated facility may be appropriate if the above standards of care can be provided.

This plan is based on accepted best practice guidelines, but does allow for patient and physician preference.

A copy of the Regional Cardiac Plan as well as a current list of EMS Providers, Facility Capabilities and Designated Centers may be accessed at www.spems.org

TRAUMA TRIAGE CRITERIA FOR EMS FACILITY BYPASS AND TRANSFER

Patients who meet triage criteria for activation of the regional trauma system plan will be transported **DIRECTLY TO AN APPROPRIATE TRAUMA FACILITY**, rather than to the nearest hospital, **EXCEPT** under the following circumstances:

1. If an adequate airway cannot be established and/or maintained, or in cases of traumatic cardiac arrest, the patient should be taken to the **NEAREST ACUTE CARE FACILITY** for stabilization.
2. A Level II (General) facility may be appropriate if expected transport time to a Level I facility is excessive (>25 minutes).
3. A Level III (Basic) facility may be appropriate for immediate evaluation and stabilization if the expected transport time to a Level I facility is excessive (>25 minutes).
4. Medical Control may order bypass in any of the above situations as appropriate, such as when a facility is unable to meet hospital resource criteria, or when the patient is in need of specialty care.
5. If expected transport time is excessive (>25 minutes), or if expected extrication time is lengthy (>15 minutes), activation of air transport resources should be considered.
6. If there is a question on whether or not to bypass a facility, on-line medical control should be consulted for the final decision.

CRITICAL PATIENTS

Should be evaluated at a Level I or Level II Trauma Center. Patients who are physiologically and hemodynamically unstable whose injuries may include:

- Chest:
 - Major chest wall injury
 - Penetrating thoracic wound
- Pelvis:
 - Pelvic ring disruption with shock requiring >5 units transfusion
- Abdomen:
 - Blunt trauma with hypotension
 - Penetrating abdominal wound
- Multiple system trauma:
 - Chest injury with head injury
 - Abdominal or pelvic injury with head injury
- Specialized problems:
 - 2° or 3° burns >10% TBSA or involving airway
 - Barotrauma
 - Uncontrolled hemorrhage
 - 2nd/3rd trimester pregnancy

URGENT PATIENTS

Should be evaluated at a Level I or Level II Trauma Center. Patients who are physiologically and hemodynamically unstable whose injuries may include:

- Central nervous system:
 - Prolonged loss of consciousness, posturing, paralysis or lateralizing sign
 - Spinal injuries with or without deficit
 - Glasgow Coma Score (GCS) <10
 - Open, penetrating or depressed skull fracture
 - CSF leak
 - GCS deterioration ≥ 2
- Thoracic:
 - Suspected cardiac/great vessel injury
 - Possible requirement for prolonged mechanical ventilation
 - Respiratory distress with rate >35 or <10
- Abdomen:
 - Blunt trauma without hypotension
- Multiple system trauma:
 - Severe facial injury with head injury
- Specialized problems:
 - Carbon monoxide poisoning
 - Severe maxillofacial or neck injuries
 - Revised Trauma Score (RTS) ≤ 11
 - Open fractures
- Secondary deterioration (Late Sequelae):
 - Patients requiring mechanical ventilation
 - Sepsis
 - Organ system(s) failure
 - Osteomyelitis

Continued on Next Page

TRAUMA TRIAGE CRITERIA FOR EMS FACILITY BYPASS AND TRANSFER **(Continued)**

CATEGORY III PATIENTS

May be evaluated at a Level III Trauma Center.

Patients who are physiologically and hemodynamically stable whose injuries may include:

- Central nervous system:
 - Transient loss of consciousness
- Chest:
 - Injuries not producing respiratory distress
 - Rib fractures without flail segments
- Abdomen:
 - Blunt trauma without hypotension
- Specialized problems:
 - Closed fractures
 - Soft tissue injuries with controlled hemorrhage
 - 2nd/3rd trimester pregnancy

CATEGORY IV PATIENTS

May be evaluated at an appropriate trauma facility.

Patients who are continually normotensive and/or hemodynamically stable, but whose injuries may include:

- Specialized problems:
 - Closed fractures without neurological deficit
 - Moderate soft tissue injuries

GLASGOW COMA SCORE & REVISED TRAUMA SCORE

To calculate the Revised Trauma Score:

1. Calculate the Glasgow Coma Score
2. Determine score components based on Glasgow Coma Score, Respiratory Rate, and Systolic Blood Pressure.
3. Add score components to determine REVISED TRAUMA SCORE.

GLASGOW COMA SCORE – Adult & Child

MOTOR RESPONSE

- 1-No Response
- 2-Abnormal Extension
- 3-Abnormal Flexion
- 4-Withdrawal
- 5-Localizes Pain
- 6-Obeys Command

VERBAL RESPONSE

- 1-No Response
- 2-Incomprehensible Sounds
- 3-Inappropriate Words
- 4-Confused/Disoriented
- 5-Oriented

EYE RESPONSE

- 1-No Response
- 2-To Pain
- 3-To Verbal Command
- 4-Spontaneous

GLASGOW COMA SCORE – Child & Infant

MOTOR RESPONSE

- 1-No Response
- 2-Abnormal Extension
- 3-Abnormal Flexion
- 4-Withdraws to Pain
- 5-Localizes Pain
- 6-Spontaneous

VERBAL RESPONSE

- 1-No Response
- 2-Moans, Grunts
- 3-Cries to Pain
- 4-Irritable Cries
- 5-Coos, Babbles

EYE RESPONSE

- 1-No Response
- 2-To Pain
- 3-To Speech
- 4-Spontaneous

REVISED TRAUMA SCORE – Adult & Child

GLASGOW COMA SCORE

- 0=3
- 1=4-5
- 2=6-8
- 3=9-12
- 4=13-15

RESPIRATORY RATE

- 0=0
- 1=1-5
- 2=6-9
- 3=>29
- 4=10-29

SYSTOLIC BLOOD PRESSURE

- 0=0
- 1=1-49
- 2=50-75
- 3=76-89
- 4=>89

Score: 0-12 (decreasing with increasing injury severity) Patients with Revised Trauma Score of 11 or less require care at a Level I or Level II Trauma Center.

REVISED TRAUMA SCORE – Child & Infant

Score	Weight	Airway	BP*	Level of Consciousness	Open Wound	Fractures
+2	>20kg (44lbs)	Normal	>90mmHg	Awake	None	None
+1	10-20kg (22-44lbs)	Maintainable with O ₂	50-90mmHg	Obtunded or any LOC	Minor	Closed Fracture
-1	<10kg (22lbs)	Intubated	<50mmHg	Comatose	Major or Penetrating	Open or Multiple

*In the absence of a Blood Pressure reading, the BP may be estimated by the point at which a pulse is palpable as follows: +2 – Brachial, +1 – Groin, -1 – No Pulse Palpable

Score: 0-12 (decreasing with increasing injury severity) Patients with Revised Trauma Score of 11 or less require care at a Level I or Level II Trauma Center.

GUIDELINES FOR TRAUMA TEAM ACTIVATION

Adult Patients (≥16 years of age)

Level I

1. Unstable vital signs:
 - Confirmed Systolic BP <90mmHg at any time
 - Sustained Pulse <50 or >120
2. Respiratory compromise/obstruction and or intubation (pre-hospital)
 - Respiratory rate <10 or >35 per minute
 - Unsecured airway
 - Clinical symptoms of hypoxia
3. Glasgow Coma Scale ≤ 8, with mechanism related to trauma
4. Gun shot wound to abdomen, neck, or chest
5. RTS ≤10 on arrival
6. Severe multi-system trauma
7. Traumatic amputation of limb (with clinical instability or associated injuries)
8. Transfer patients requiring fluid, pressors, or blood to maintain vital signs
9. Burn injuries
 - 50% TBSA 2° & 3° burns (all ages)
 - High voltage electrical burns with cardiac arrhythmias or significant tissue damage,
 - Inhalation injuries with respiratory distress
10. EC physician discretion

Level II

1. Intubated patients transferred from another facility
2. Flail Chest
3. Trauma resulting in an open long bone fracture
4. Pelvic fracture
5. Penetrating injury to extremities and stab wounds to the trunk
6. MVC:
 - Un-restrained rollover
 - Ejection from the vehicle
7. MCC:
 - No Helmet
 - MCC traveling > 20 mph
8. Pedestrians struck by a vehicle moving >20mph
9. Glasgow Coma Scale >8 but <13, with mechanism related to trauma
10. Falls >20 feet
11. Burns:
 - > 10% TBSA 2° or 3° burn <10 or > 50 years of age
 - > 20% but < 50% TBSA 2° (all ages)
 - > 20% TBSA 3° (all ages)
 - All other electrical burns
 - All chemical burns
12. Symptomatic Carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning
13. EC physician discretion

Level III

1. Traumatically injured patients not otherwise defined
2. Clinically stable patients with injuries identified after EC work-up
3. Injured patients requiring subspecialty consult
4. Burns not otherwise defined

GUIDELINES FOR TRAUMA TEAM ACTIVATION (continued)

Pediatric Patients (< 16 years of age)

Level I

1. Unstable vital signs:

Age	Systolic BP	Pulse Rate	Respiratory Rate
Birth – 1 year	Capillary Refill >4 seconds	<80 or >180	>60
1 – 5 years	<70mmHg	<60 or >160	>50
6 – 14 years	<80mmHg	<50 or >140	>50

2. Respiratory compromise/obstruction and or intubation (pre-hospital)
 - Unsecured airway
 - Clinical symptoms of hypoxia
3. Glasgow Coma Scale \leq 8, with mechanism related to trauma
4. Any Gun shot wound
5. Any penetrating trauma to the torso (chest or abdomen)
6. RTS \leq 10 on arrival
7. Severe multi-system trauma
8. Traumatic amputation of limb (with clinical instability or associated injuries)
9. Transfer patients requiring fluid, pressors, or blood to maintain vital signs
10. Burn injuries
 - 50% TBSA 2^o & 3^o burns (all ages)
 - High voltage electrical burns with cardiac arrhythmias or significant tissue damage,
 - Inhalation injuries with respiratory distress
11. EC physician discretion

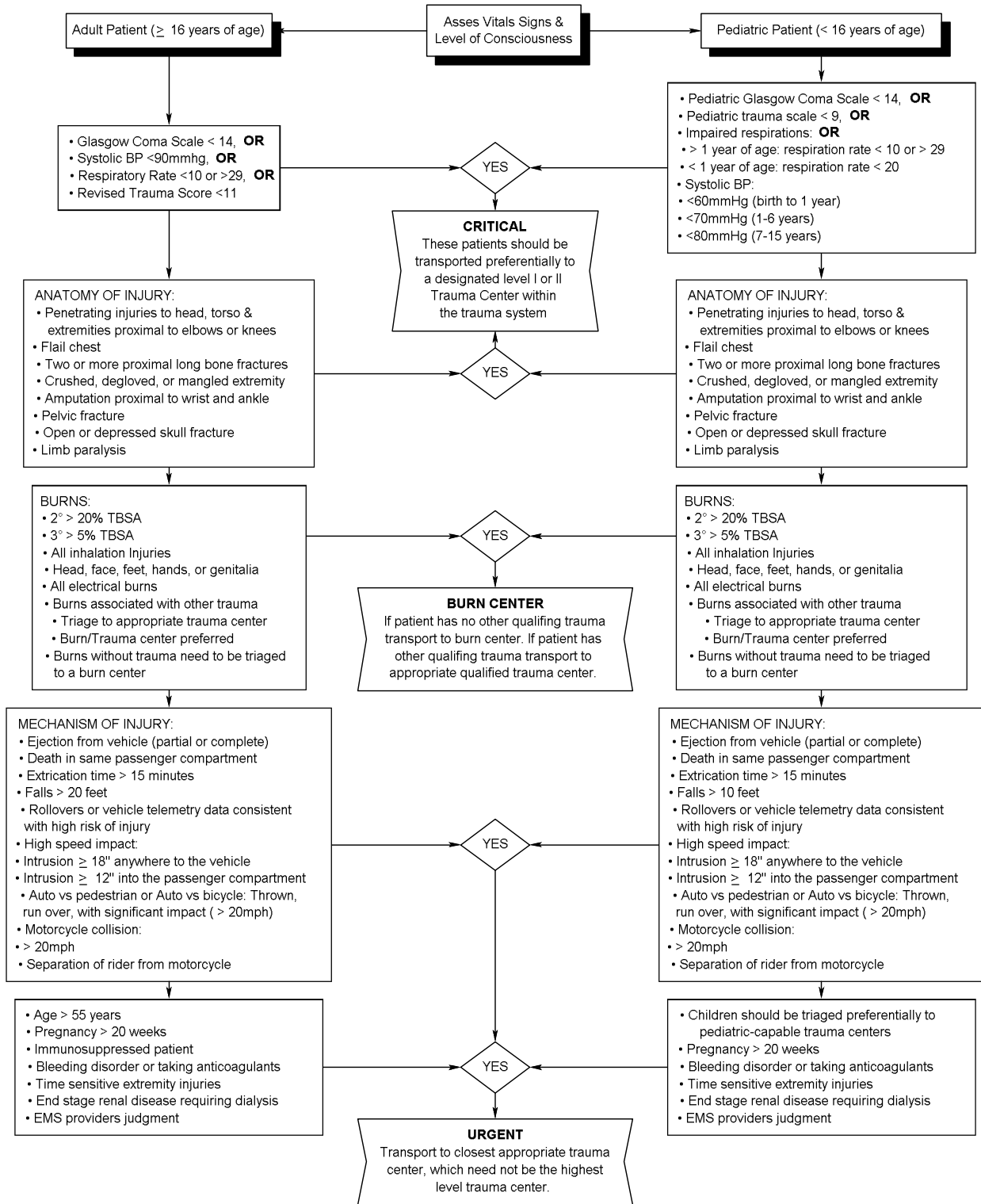
Level II

1. Intubated patients transferred from another facility
2. Flail Chest
3. Trauma resulting in an open long bone fracture
4. Pelvic fracture
5. Penetrating injury to extremities
6. MVC:
 - Un-restrained rollover
 - Ejection from the vehicle
7. MCC:
 - No Helmet
 - MCC traveling > 20 mph
8. Child struck or run over by a motor vehicle or trailer
9. Near drowning
10. Glasgow Coma Scale >8 but <13, with mechanism related to trauma
11. Falls >20 feet
12. Burns:
 - > 10% TBSA 2^o or 3^o burn <10 or > 50 years of age
 - > 20% but < 50% TBSA 2^o (all ages)
 - >20% TBSA 3^o (all ages)
 - All other electrical burns
 - All chemical burns
13. Symptomatic Carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning
14. EC physician discretion

Level III

1. Traumatically injured patients not otherwise defined
2. Clinically stable patients with injuries identified after EC work-up
3. Injured patients requiring subspecialty consult
4. Burns not otherwise defined

TRAUMA TRIAGE/TRANSFER DECISION SCHEME PRE-HOSPITAL *



*If the patient does not have a secured airway **and/or** is in cardiac arrest, transport to the nearest facility is justified

• When in doubt the patient should be transported to a trauma center
• Consider use of air transport for all critical & urgent patients

CRITERIA FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF AIR MEDICAL TRANSPORT FOR TRAUMA PATIENTS

- Lengthy extrication of the patient at the scene and the severity of the patient's injuries require delivery of a critical care team to the scene.
- One or more of the following mechanisms of injury with a motor vehicle collision present:
 - There had been structural intrusion into the patient's space in the vehicle;
 - The patient was ejected from the vehicle;
 - Another person in the same vehicle died;
 - The patient was a pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling more than 20mph;
 - The patient was not wearing a safety belt in a car which was overturned;
 - The patient was thrown from a motorcycle traveling more than 20mph.
- The front bumper of the vehicle was displaced to the rear by more than 30 inches, or the front axle was displaced to the rear.
- The patient fell from a height of greater than 20 feet.
- The patient experienced a penetrating injury between the mid-thigh and the head.
- The patient experienced an amputation, or near amputation, and required timely evaluation for possible reimplantation.
- The patient experienced a scalping or degloving injury.
- The patient experienced a severe hemorrhage. Included are those patients with a systolic blood pressure of less than 90mmHg after initial volume resuscitation and those requiring ongoing blood transfusions to maintain a stable blood pressure.
- The patient experienced 2^o/3^o degree burns of the skin greater than 15 percent of the body surface, or major burns of the face, hands, feet, or perineum, or associated with an airway or inhalation injury.
- The patient experienced, or had great potential to experience, injury to the spinal cord, spinal column, or neurological deficit.
- The patient suffered injuries to the face or neck which might result in an unstable or potentially unstable airway and might require invasive procedures (such as endotracheal or nasotracheal intubation, tracheostomy cricothyrotomy) to stabilize the airway.
- The patient had a score from an objective ranking system for trauma (such as the Trauma Score, Revised Trauma Score, CRAMS, Glasgow Coma Scale, etc.) at the scene or at the referring hospital's emergency department which indicated a severe injury.
- The patient is a child less than five years of age with multiple traumatic injuries.
- The patient is greater than 55 years of age and has multiple traumatic injuries, whether with or without preexisting illness, such as diabetes mellitus, coronary artery disease, chronic obstructive lung disease, or chronic renal failure.
- The patient is an adult with respiratory rate of less than 10 or greater than 35 breaths per minute, or a heart rate of less than 60 or greater than 120 beats per minute.

Source: *FLIGHT NURSING: PRACTICE AND PRINCIPLES*, 1991

SOUTH PLAINS EMS EQUIPMENT LIST

BLS UNITS

- 1- SAED with defibrillator pads/paddles to accommodate the adult and pediatric patients. However, if the BLS unit already stocks a monitor/defibrillator/SAED another SAED is not required. (If the SAED stocked does not support pediatric defibrillation a variance must be filled out through the SPEMS office and then pediatric defibrillation pads are not mandatory. The Variance must be signed by the Medical Director and a copy placed in each set of their protocols). A charged spare battery must accompany the unit as well as the one powering the unit. However, an alternative power source may take the place of the spare battery. (SAED with sealed 5 year batteries need not to have a spare)
- 1- Portable suction (no foot pump or bulb type) with charged spare battery if the unit is battery powered. However, an alternative power source may take the place of the spare battery.
- 1- Vehicle mounted suction
- 1ea- Bag valve mask (adult, child, infant sizes)
- 1ea- ResQPOD
- 1ea- Nasal airway (adult and child)
- 1ea- Oral airway (adult, child, infant sizes)
- 3ea- Oxygen delivery devices: Non-rebreather (adult and pediatric), Nasal Cannula, Hand-Held Nebulizer, or Nebulizer mask
- 2- Portable oxygen cylinders
- 1- Portable oxygen regulator
- 1- Piped-in oxygen with regulator (M or H cylinders)
- 1- Pulse Oximeter device with charged spare batteries
- 2ea- C-collars (to accommodate adult, child, and infant)
- 1- Extremity splint for all extremities
- 1ea- Traction splint (adult & child size)
- 2- Long spine boards with straps
- 1- Short board or KED-type extrication device (does not have to be a KED brand)
- 1ea- Blood pressure cuffs (adult, child, & infant size)
- 1- Stethoscope
- 1- Glucometer (Must have appropriate documented training)
- 2- Appropriate glucometer test strips
- 2- Lancet/needle
- 3ea-Syringes that will accommodate all the appropriate drug volumes stocked
- 3- Hypodermic needles appropriate for IM injections (if stocked)
- 2- Multi trauma dressings
- 1- Celox (optional)
- 1- QuickClot (must be the heat free formula)(optional)
- 24- Sterile gauze pads
- 5- Soft roller adhering bandages
- 2- Rolls of adhesive tape

- 12- Triangular bandages
- 2- Sterile burn sheets
- 3- Vaseline Gauze
- 10- Alcohol preps
- 1- Bandage shears
- 1- Sealed OB kit with non-porous infant insulator
- 1- Pen light
- 1- Multilevel stretcher with at least 2 sets of clean sheets and blankets
- 1- Copy of current, signed SPEMS treatment protocols for the ECA
- 1- Mast pants (Optional)
- *1ea- King LT-D airway sizes 2 & 2.5
- *1ea- King LTS-D airway sizes 3, 4, & 5
- 1- Puncture resistant sharps container
- 1- Emergency Response Guidebook, most current edition
- 1set- Emergency warning devices (at least 3 emergency triangles)
- 10- Protective, non-porous gloves
- 2- Medical eye protection
- 2- Medical respiratory protection
- 2- Medical protective gowns or equivalent
- 2- Personal cleansing supplies
- 5- Biohazard bags
- 1- Fire extinguisher
- 1- No smoking signs in the cab and patient compartment

BLS MEDICATIONS

INHALED MEDICATIONS

- Oxygen
- *5- Albuterol (Ventolin) 2.5mg/3ml
- *2- Levalbuterol (Xopenex) 1.25mg/3ml (optional)

ORAL MEDICATIONS

- *1- Activated Charcoal, 50g
- *10- Aspirin, 325mg tablets
- 1- Oral Glucose 15g Tube
- *1- Liquid Children's Motrin 100mg/5ml

SUBLINGUAL MEDICATIONS

- *1- bottle- Nitroglycerin, 0.4mg tablet or spray

INTRAMUSCULAR MEDICATIONS

- 1- Epinephrine Auto-Injector (Adult) 0.3mg/unit
- 1- Epinephrine Auto-Injector (Pediatric) 0.15mg/unit
- 2- Epinephrine (1:1,000) 1mg/1cc (appropriate training needed)
- *1- Glucagon 1mg/unit (optional)

Services under SPEMS medical direction may carry Epinephrine Auto-Injectors to accommodate both adult and pediatric patients **AND/OR** Epinephrine (1:1,000) 1mg/1cc. However, Epinephrine (1:1,000) can only be carried if all active ECA's, EMT's and Intermediates are appropriately trained on IM injections (and the standing Allergic Reaction Protocol). This training must be documented including location, date, and time. Documentation must be readily accessible upon inspection

*All equipment and medications noted with an * are not to be used at the ECA level.

- If you have medical direction for any medications or invasive equipment not listed here, you must attach written authorization for the use of such. This document must be signed by the SPEMS Medical Director. However, non-invasive equipment (example: Vacu-Mattress, Morgan lenses, thermometer, etc...) does not require written authorization by medical direction or additions to the equipment list.
- All of the services under my medical direction must carry the minimum amount of equipment and medications listed above, and may carry more according to their run demand and patient care needs.



SPEMS Medical Director

Date 02/01/2011

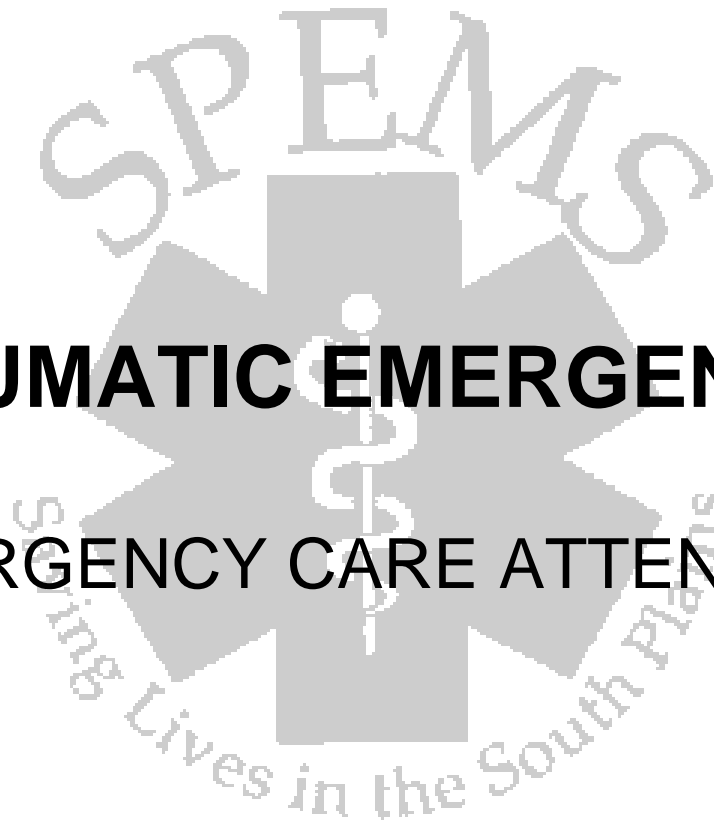
Service Director

Date 02/01/2011

**SOUTH PLAINS
EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICE**

TRAUMATIC EMERGENCIES

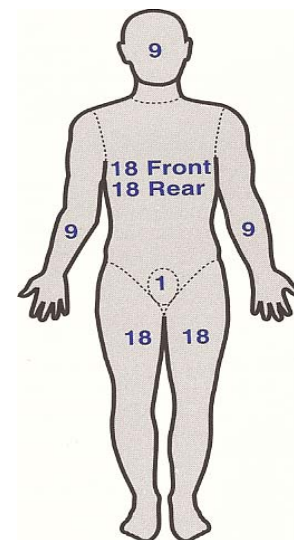
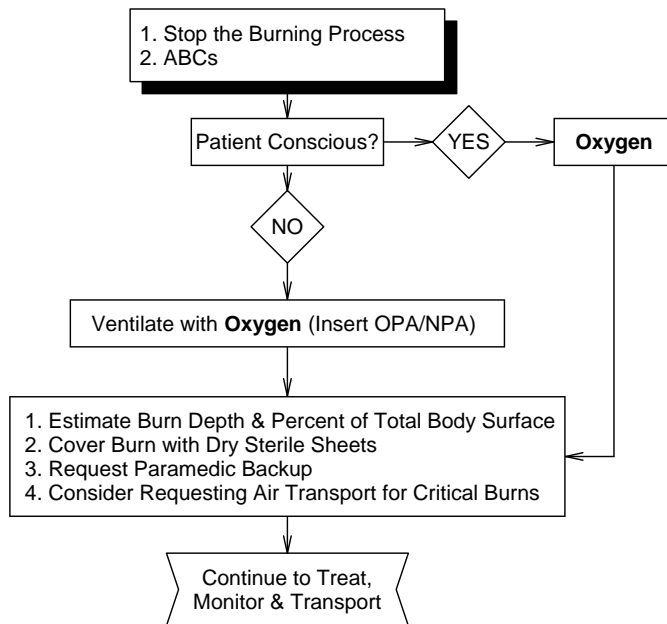
EMERGENCY CARE ATTENDANT



BURNS (Moderate to Critical)



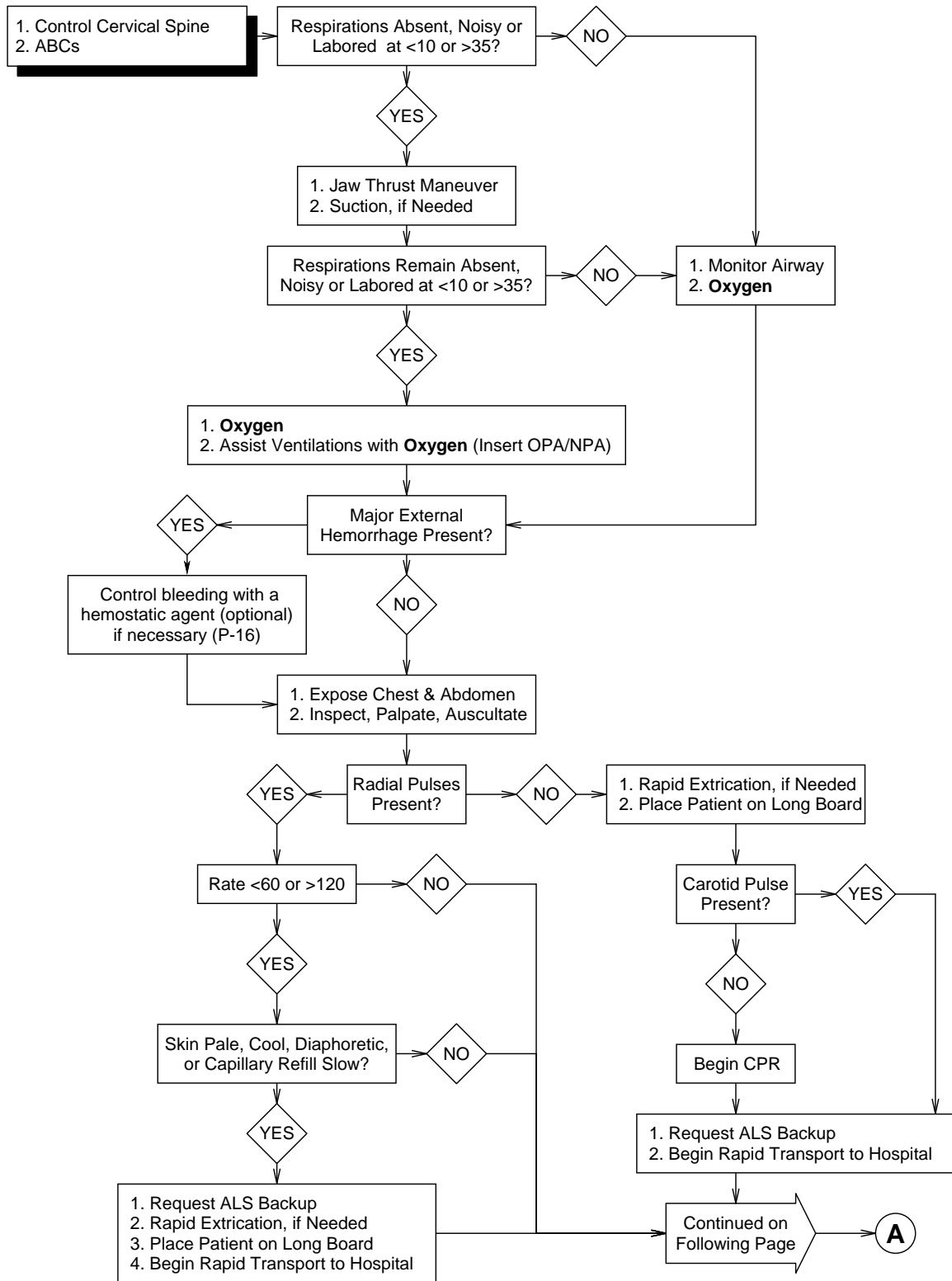
The Rule of 9's
(count only 2° & 3° burns)



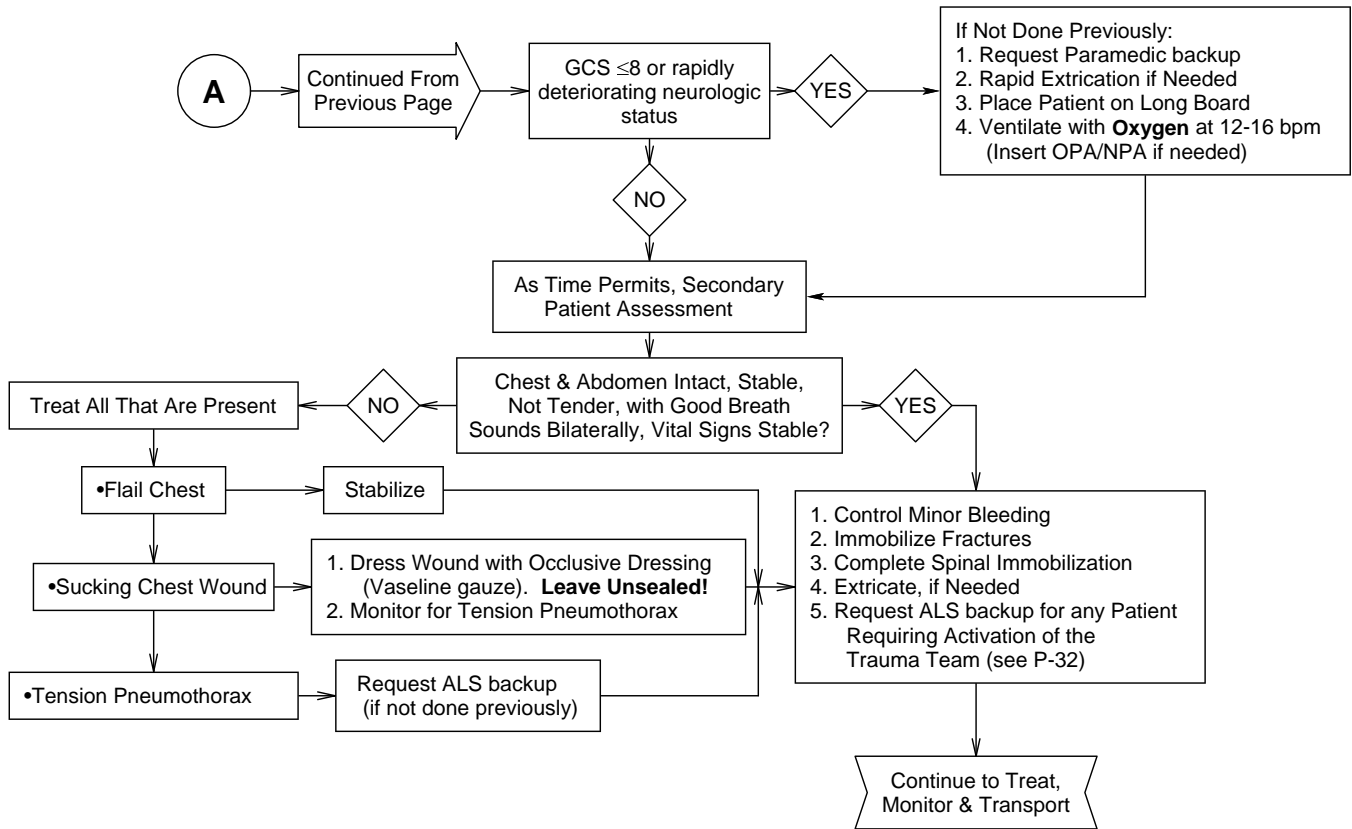
- CRITICAL BURNS**
1. All inhalation injuries
 2. 2° > 20% TBSA
 3. 3° > 5% TBSA
 4. Head, face, feet, hands, or genitalia
 5. All electrical injuries
 6. Burns associated with other trauma
- MODERATE**
1. All burns not meeting other critical criteria
 2. Minor burns in any patient with significant underlying medical conditions



TRAUMA



TRAUMA (Continued)



• Time on scene with Trauma patients should not exceed 10 minutes unless extrication is required. If time on scene exceeds 10 minutes, reasons for delay should be documented.
 • If extrication >15 minutes is required, or if time to definitive care is likely to exceed 25 minutes, consider air transport.

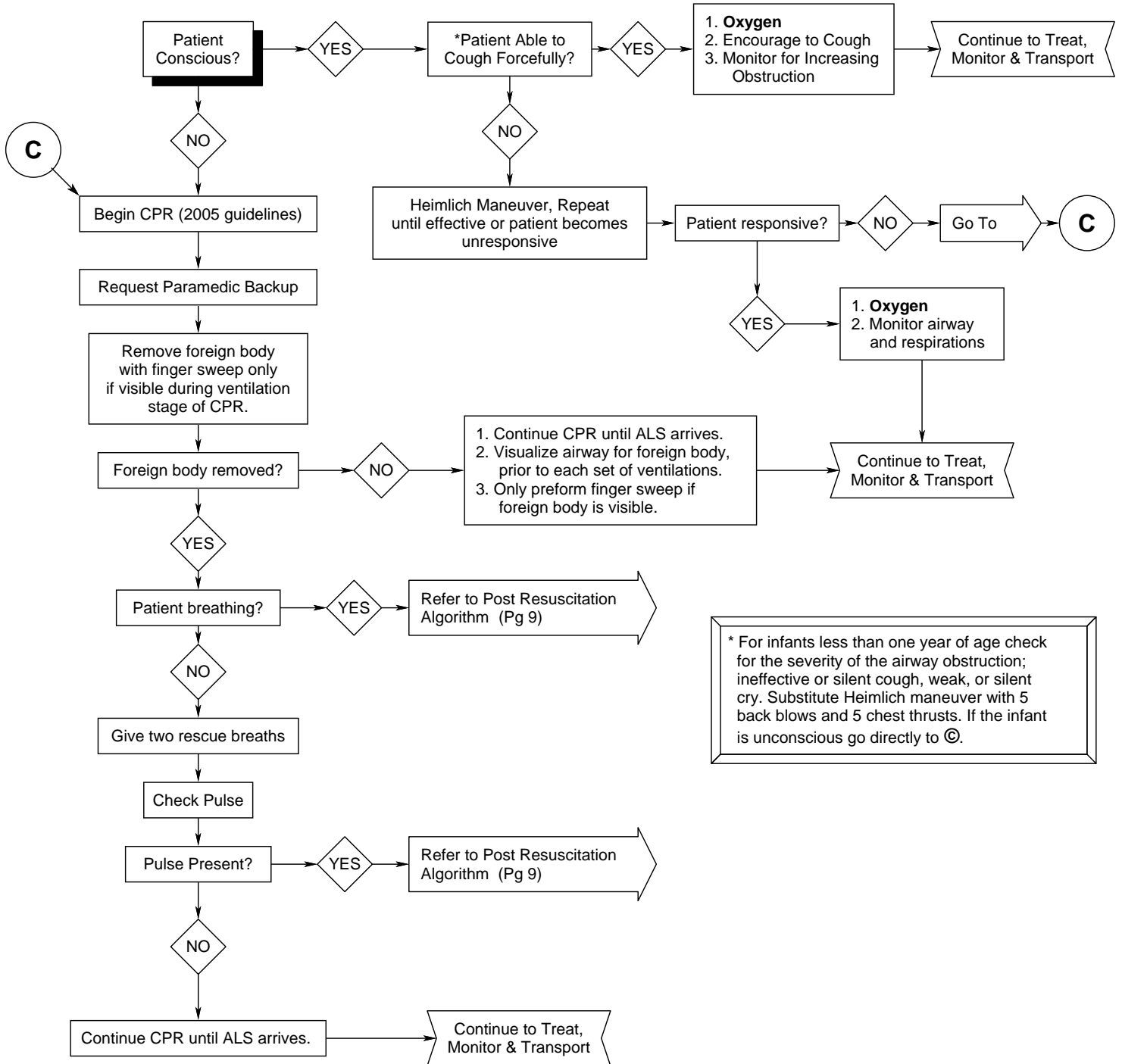
**SOUTH PLAINS
EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICE**

RESPIRATORY EMERGENCIES

EMERGENCY CARE ATTENDANT

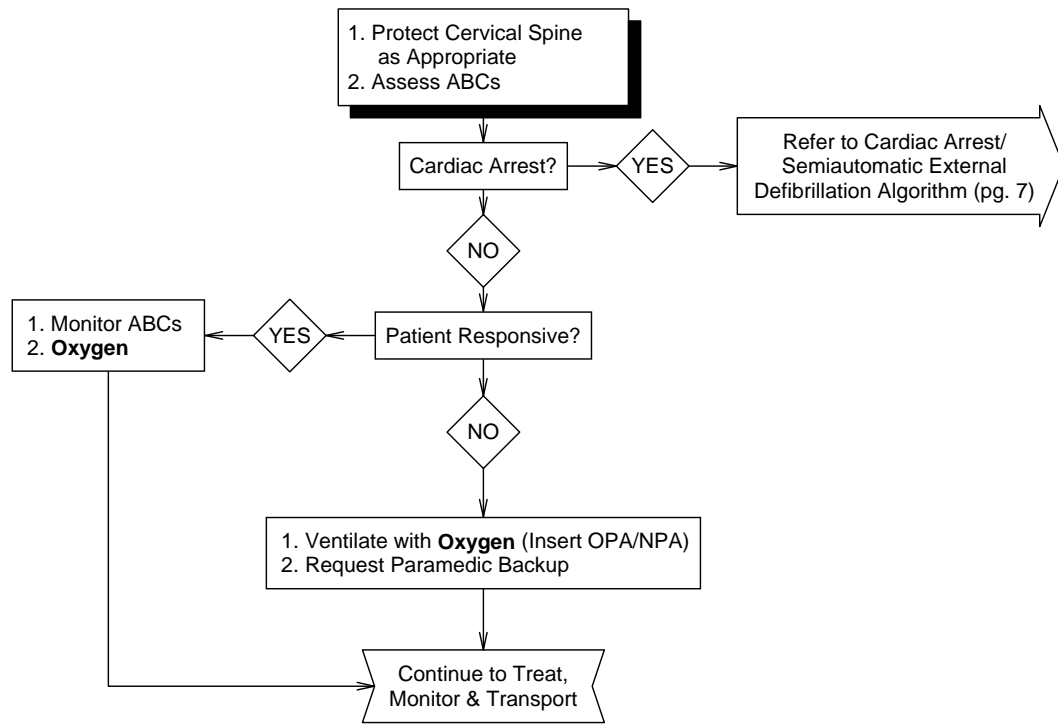


FOREIGN BODY AIRWAY OBSTRUCTION



* For infants less than one year of age check for the severity of the airway obstruction; ineffective or silent cough, weak, or silent cry. Substitute Heimlich maneuver with 5 back blows and 5 chest thrusts. If the infant is unconscious go directly to ©.

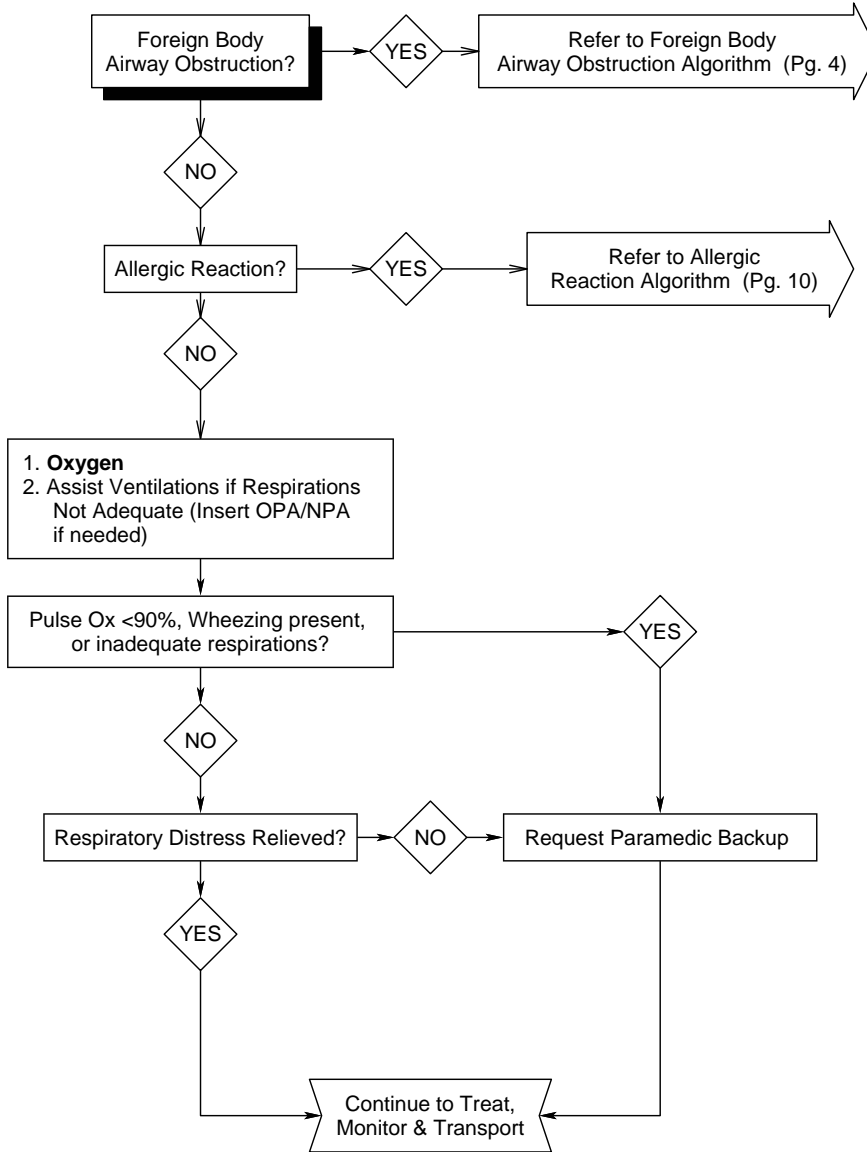
NEAR DROWNING



If wheezing noted or oxygen saturation is < 90% go to Respiratory Distress Protocol (pg. 6)

- Consider spinal cord trauma, air embolism, hypothermia, alcohol or drug ingestion, hypoglycemia, seizures and myocardial infarction as accompanying problems or underlying causes.
- All near drowning patients should be transported for observation & evaluation, no matter how mild the episode appears to be.
- Air transport should be considered to expedite the patient's arrival at the hospital.

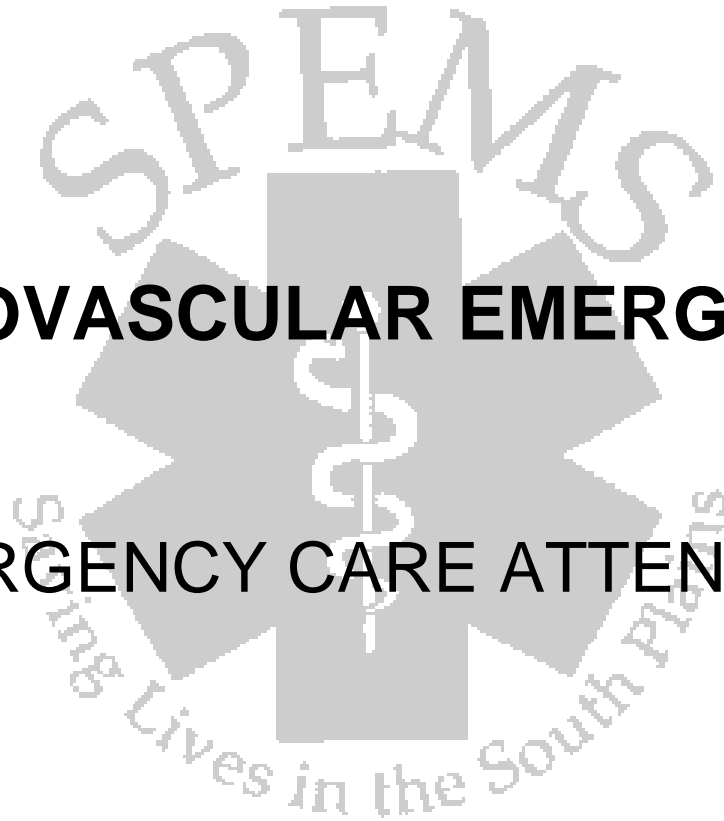
RESPIRATORY DISTRESS



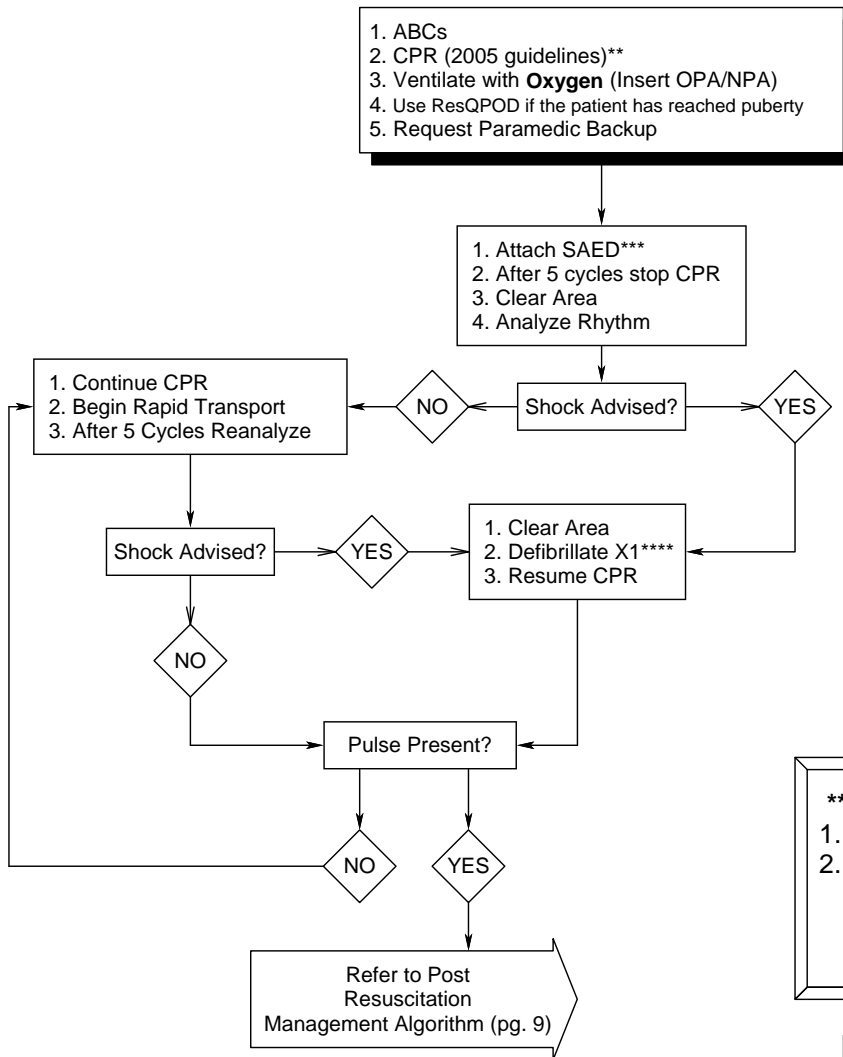
**SOUTH PLAINS
EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICE**

CARDIOVASCULAR EMERGENCIES

EMERGENCY CARE ATTENDANT



CARDIAC ARREST/SEMIAUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATION*



* In all witnessed or known short duration (<4-5 minutes) cardiac arrest where defibrillation is indicated immediate defibrillation should be performed.

In all other arrest situations where defibrillation is indicated the provider should perform 5 cycles (2 minutes) of CPR prior to defibrillation.

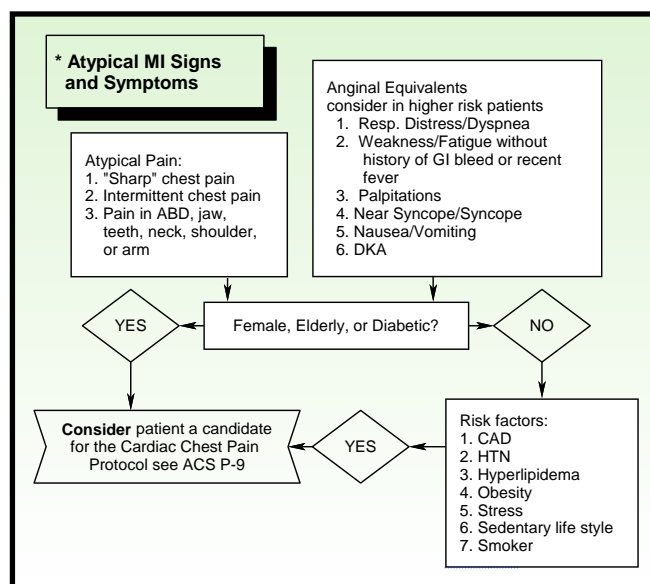
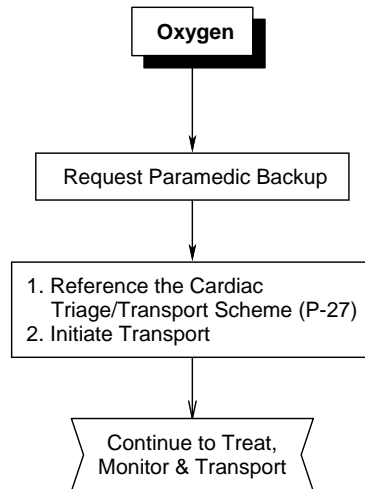
***** PEDIATRIC**

- Do not apply AED to patients < 1 yoa
- Use Pediatric pads on patients from 1-8 yoa. If pediatric pads not available use adult pads according to manufacturers recommendation.

**** If AED is Not Updated to the AHA 2005 Guidelines. Follow Manufacturers Recommendations

** Ideally chest compressions should be interrupted only for rhythm checks and actual defibrillations. The 2005 guidelines state that when CPR is indicated the provider should perform 5 cycles (2 Minutes) of chest compressions. Continue CPR while defibrillator is charging. Providers must organize care to ensure that chest compressions, initial and subsequent defibrillations are not delayed .

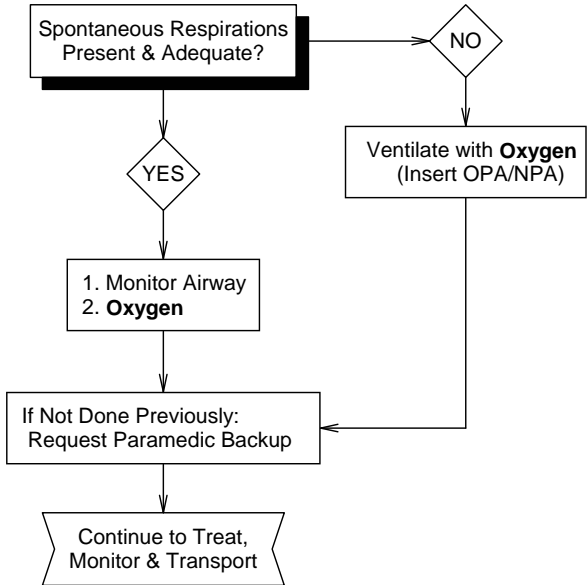
*CARDIAC CHEST PAIN or SUSPECTED MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION



*POST RESUSCITATION MANAGEMENT



*Remove ResQPOD if previously used.



If patient's condition changes, refer to appropriate algorithm.

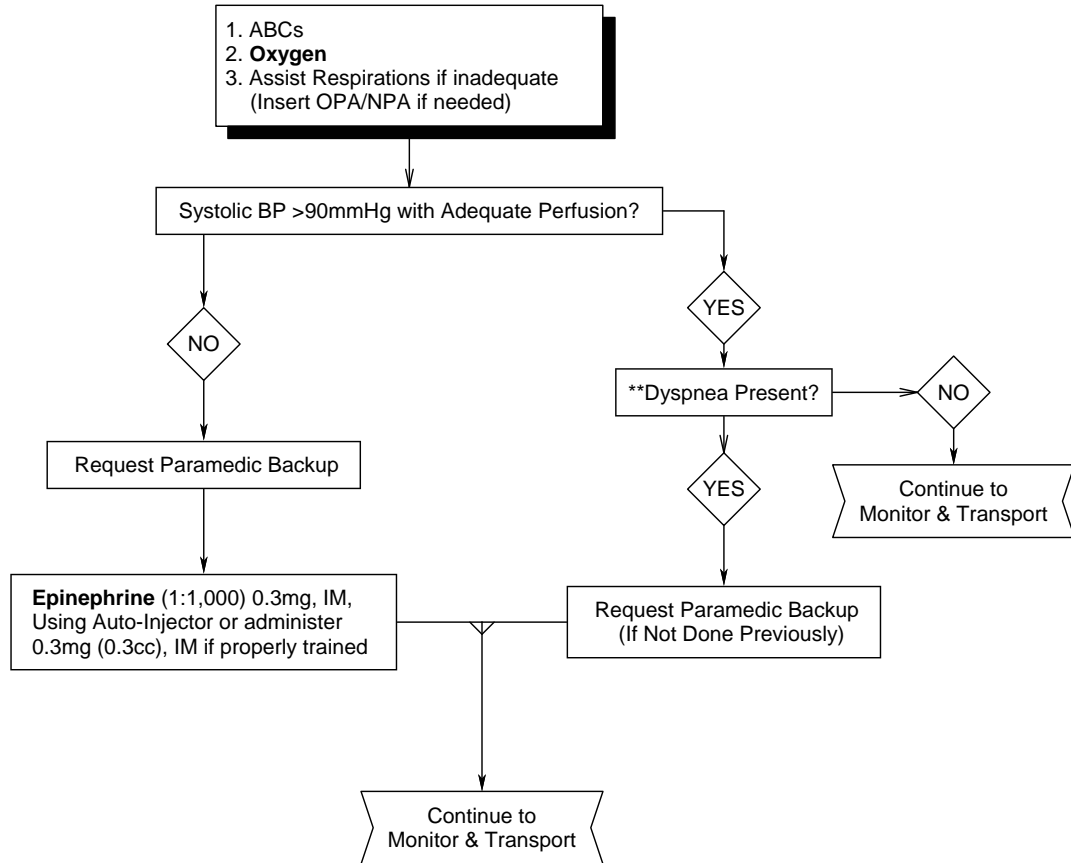
**SOUTH PLAINS
EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICE**

**OTHER MEDICAL
EMERGENCIES**

EMERGENCY CARE ATTENDANT



ALLERGIC REACTION*



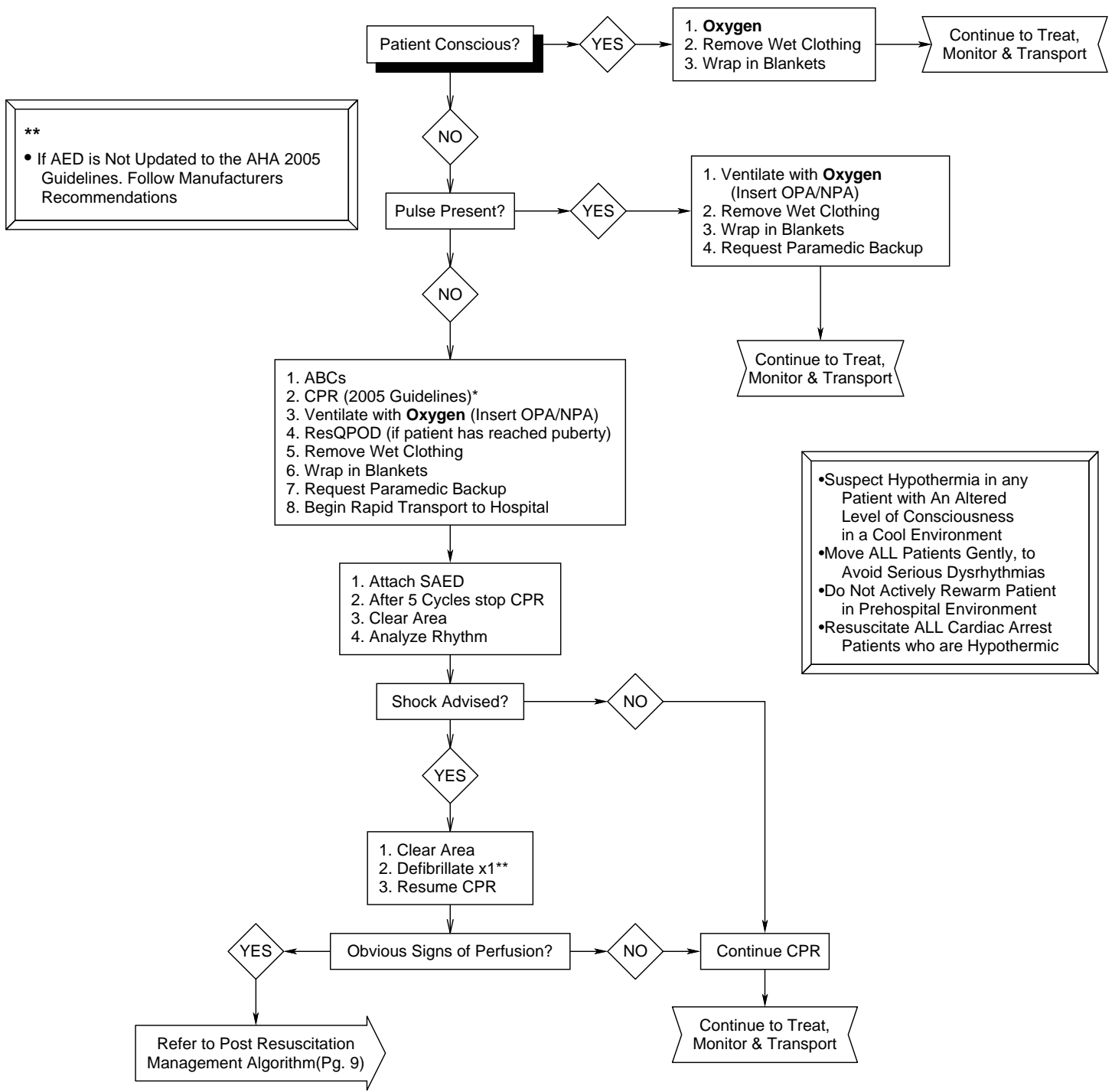
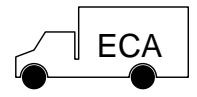
*Request Paramedic Backup
For All Pt's With Bee Stings

**If severe dyspnea is present that is not relieved by
Oxygen and **Epinephrine** not previously given consider
contacting medical control for use of **Epinephrine**
(1:1,000) 0.3mg (0.3cc) **IM** if properly trained.

PEDIATRIC DOSE

- Epinephrine**, 0.15mg, IM, Using Auto-Injector or
- Epinephrine**, (1:1,000), 0.01mg/kg to a max of 0.15mg
(0.15cc)IM, if properly trained

COLD EXPOSURE (SYSTEMIC HYPOTHERMIA) Estimated Core Temp. < 86 F

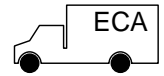


• If AED is Not Updated to the AHA 2005 Guidelines. Follow Manufacturers Recommendations

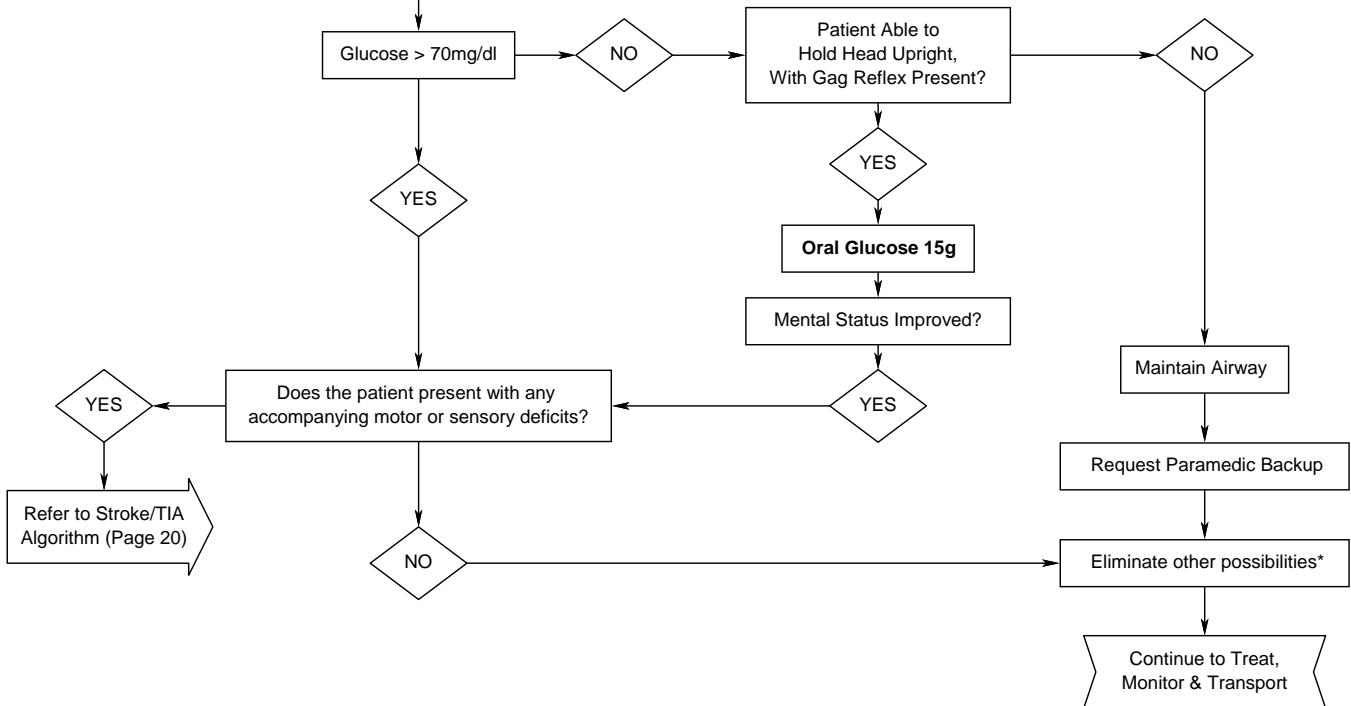
- Suspect Hypothermia in any Patient with An Altered Level of Consciousness in a Cool Environment
- Move ALL Patients Gently, to Avoid Serious Dysrhythmias
- Do Not Actively Rewarm Patient in Prehospital Environment
- Resuscitate ALL Cardiac Arrest Patients who are Hypothermic

* Ideally chest compressions should be interrupted only for rhythm checks and actual defibrillations. The 2005 guidelines state that when CPR is indicated the provider should perform 5 cycles (2 Minutes) of chest compressions. Continue CPR while defibrillator is charging. Providers must organize care to ensure that chest compressions and defibrillation are not delayed

DECREASED LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS (NON-TRAUMATIC)



1. ABCs
2. **Oxygen**
3. Assist Ventilations if Respirations Inadequate (Insert OPA/NPA if needed)
4. Check blood glucose level



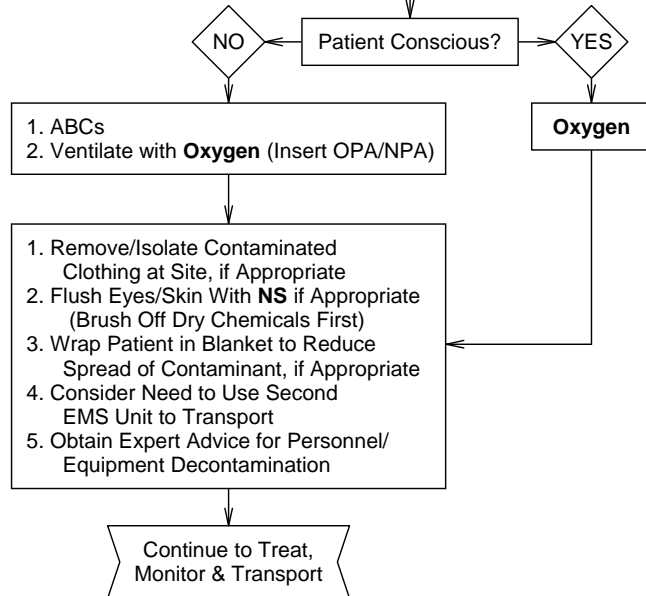
*
Other considerations for decreased LOC:
 1. Possible Cold Exposure (Pg. 11),
 2. Heat Exposure (Pg. 14), or
 3. Hypovolemia (Pg. 15)

IF PATIENT'S CONDITION IS UNSTABLE OR DETERIORATES DURING TRANSPORT, REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM RECEIVING AREA'S ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT SERVICE.

HAZARDOUS/TOXIC MATERIAL EXPOSURE



1. Observe Hazmat Precautions*
2. **Do Not Enter Incident Area Without Appropriate Protective Clothing/Respiratory Equipment**
3. Evacuate Patients From Exposure Without Risking EMS Personnel Safety
4. In Cooperation With Police/Fire Authorities, Evacuate/Isolate Scene
5. Attempt to Identify Nature of Hazardous Material as Soon as Possible
6. Request Paramedic Backup

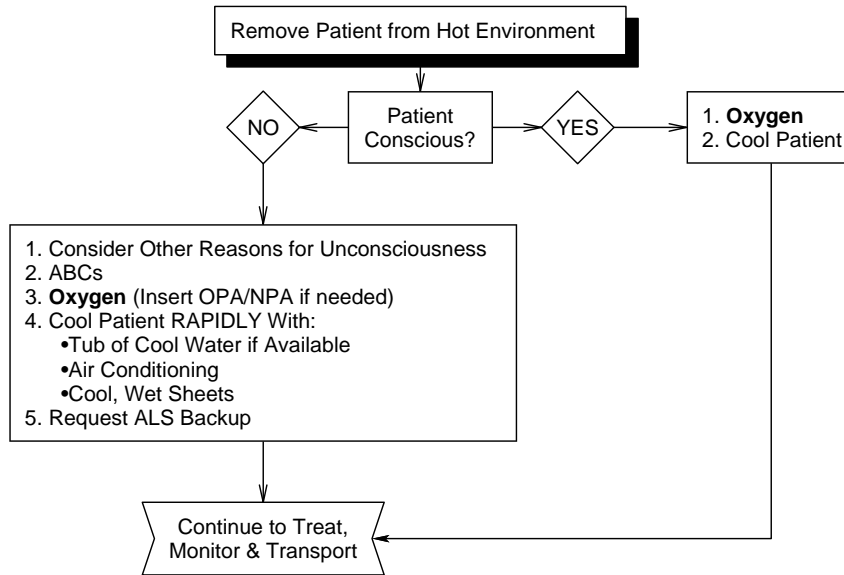


*HAZMAT PRECAUTIONS

1. Assume ALL Chemicals Hazardous Until Proven Otherwise
2. Approach From Upwind
3. Stay Out of Low-Lying Areas; Stay Uphill if Possible
4. Do Not Walk Into or Touch Spilled Chemicals; Wear Gloves When Touching Contaminated Patients
5. Avoid Smoke, Gasses, Fumes, Vapors
6. Keep Combustibles Away
7. Keep Ignition Sources Away

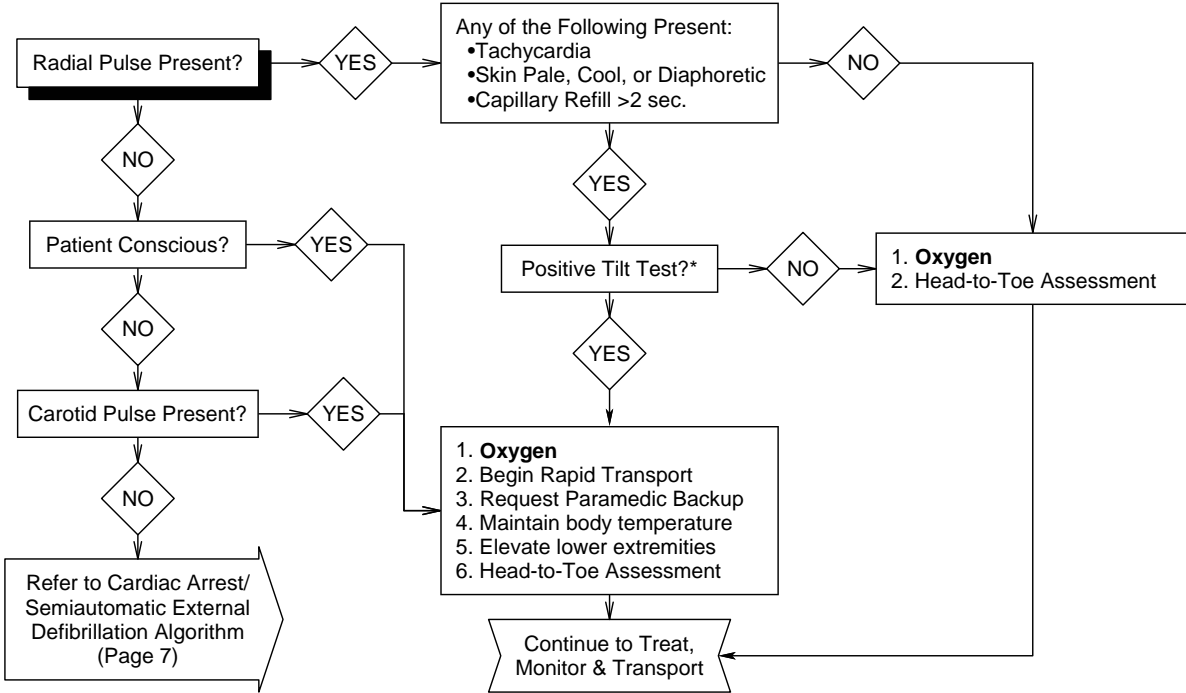
- All Patients Should Be Transported for Observation, Regardless of how Mild the Episode Seems to be
- Rescue Attempts, Scene Management, & Patient Care Should be Based on Best Information Available about the Material
- Coordinate with Fire Authorities & Regional EMS Communications Center to Obtain Information
- Air transport should be avoided

HEAT EXPOSURE (HEAT STROKE)



Suspect Heat Stroke in any Patient with an Altered Level of Consciousness in a Hot Environment

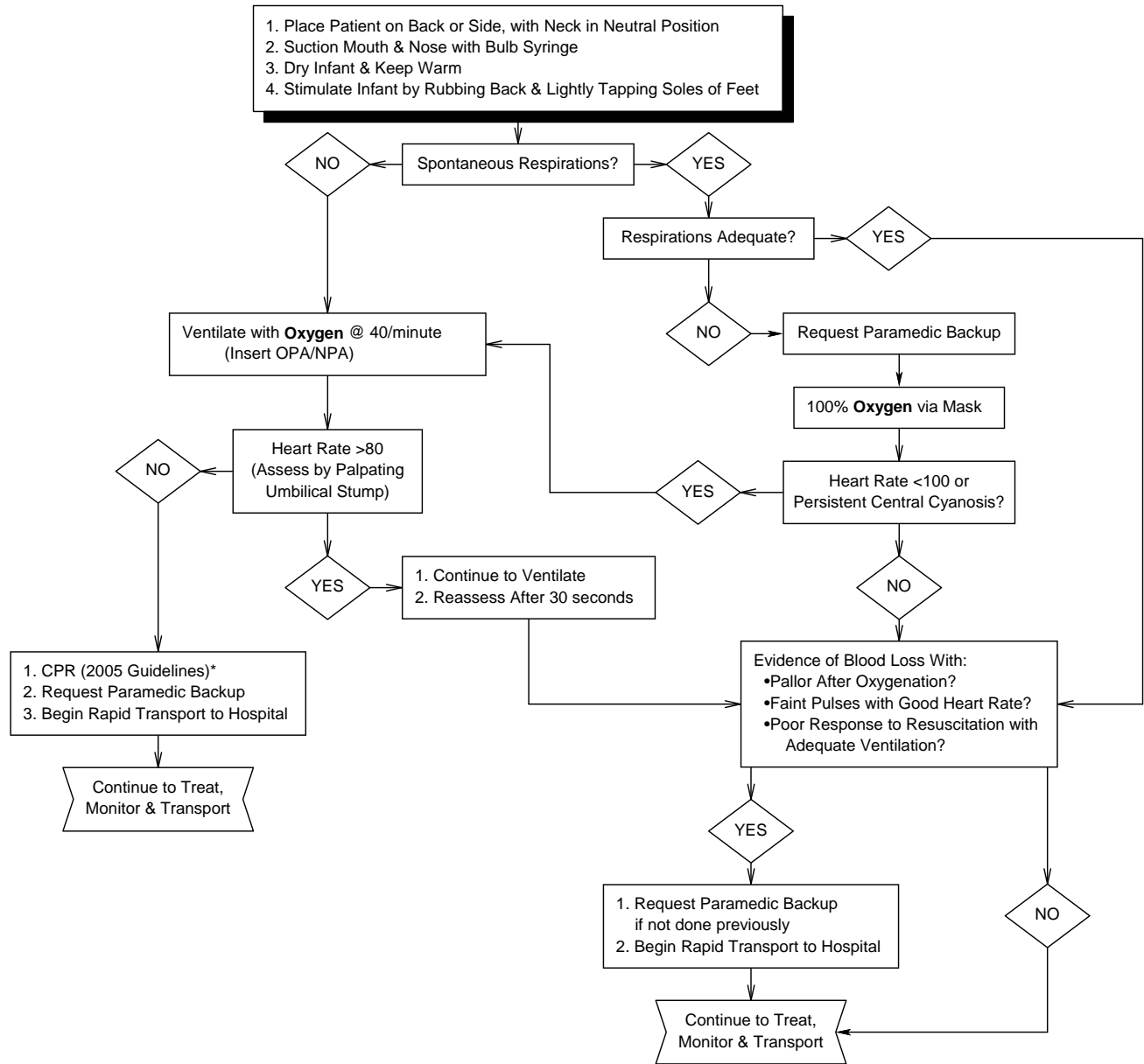
HYPOVOLEMIA (NON-TRAUMATIC)



***POSITIVE TILT TEST**

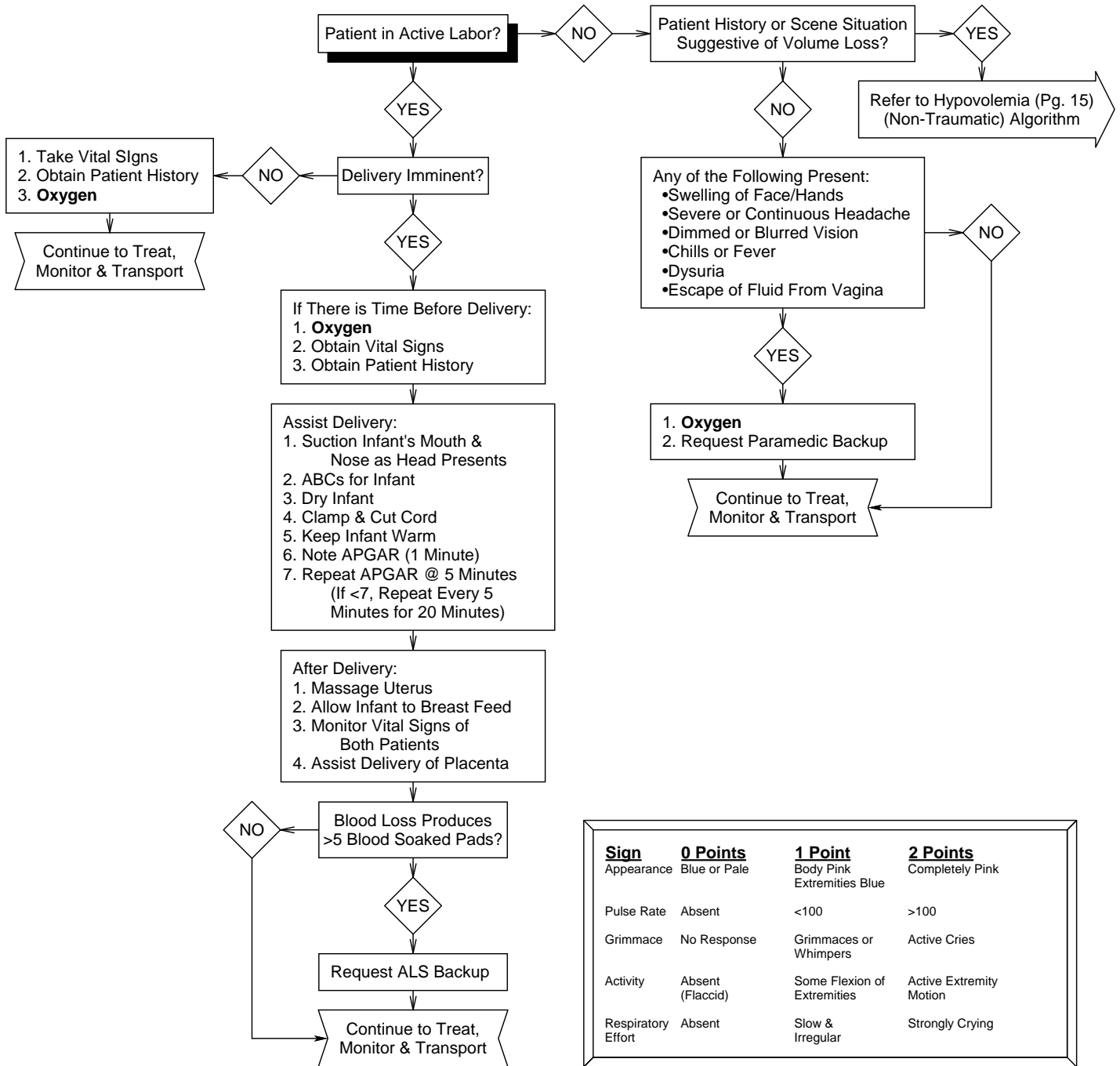
Pulse Rate Increases by 20, Systolic BP Decreases by 20mmHg, or Diastolic BP Decreases by 10mmHg when Patient is Raised from Supine to Sitting position **OR** Patient will Not Tolerate Being Raised From Supine to Sitting Position Because of Weakness, Dizziness, Presyncope, or Syncope.

NEONATAL RESUSCITATION



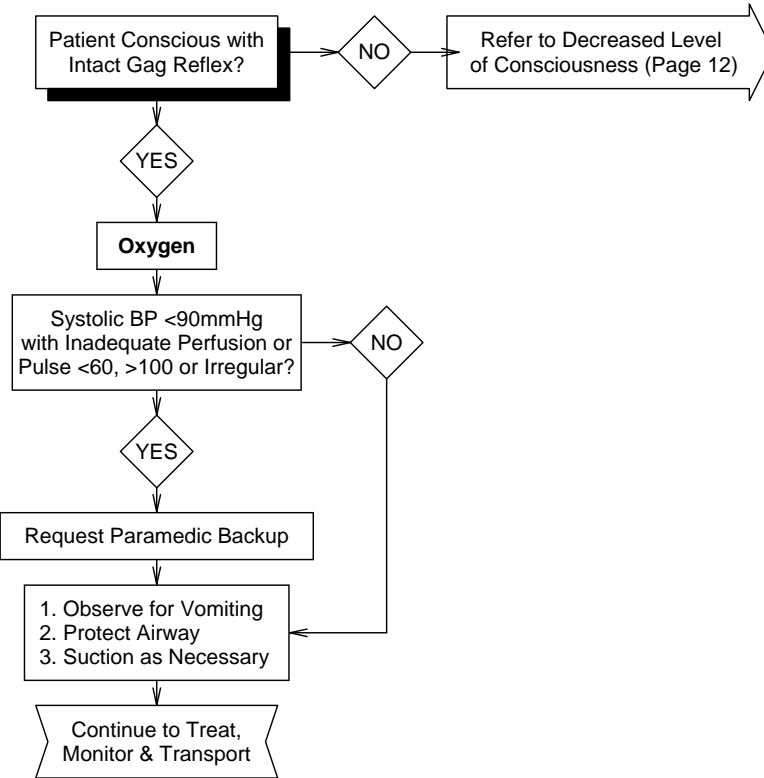
* Ideally chest compressions should be interrupted only for rhythm checks and actual defibrillations. The 2005 guidelines state that when CPR is indicated the provider should perform 5 cycles (2 Minutes) of chest compressions. Continue CPR while defibrillator is charging. Providers must organize care to ensure that chest compressions, initial and subsequent defibrillations are not delayed due to the placement of a Combitube.

OBSTETRIC EMERGENCY



Sign	0 Points	1 Point	2 Points
Appearance	Blue or Pale	Body Pink Extremities Blue	Completely Pink
Pulse Rate	Absent	<100	>100
Grimmace	No Response	Grimmaces or Whimpers	Active Cries
Activity	Absent (Flaccid)	Some Flexion of Extremities	Active Extremity Motion
Respiratory Effort	Absent	Slow & Irregular	Strongly Crying

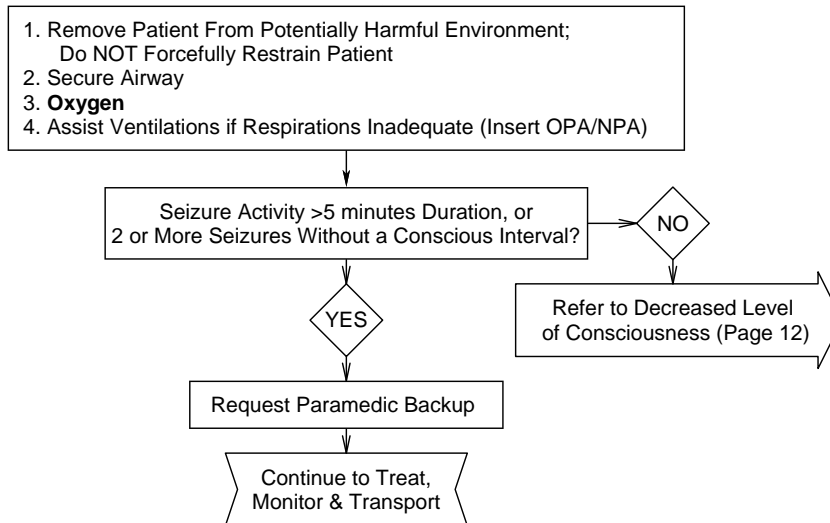
POISONING



Bring ALL Potential Agent Containers and/or Samples of Agents, if Possible, to the Emergency Department

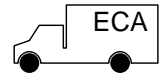
Paraquat Poisoning
Do Not Give Supplemental **Oxygen**

SEIZURES*

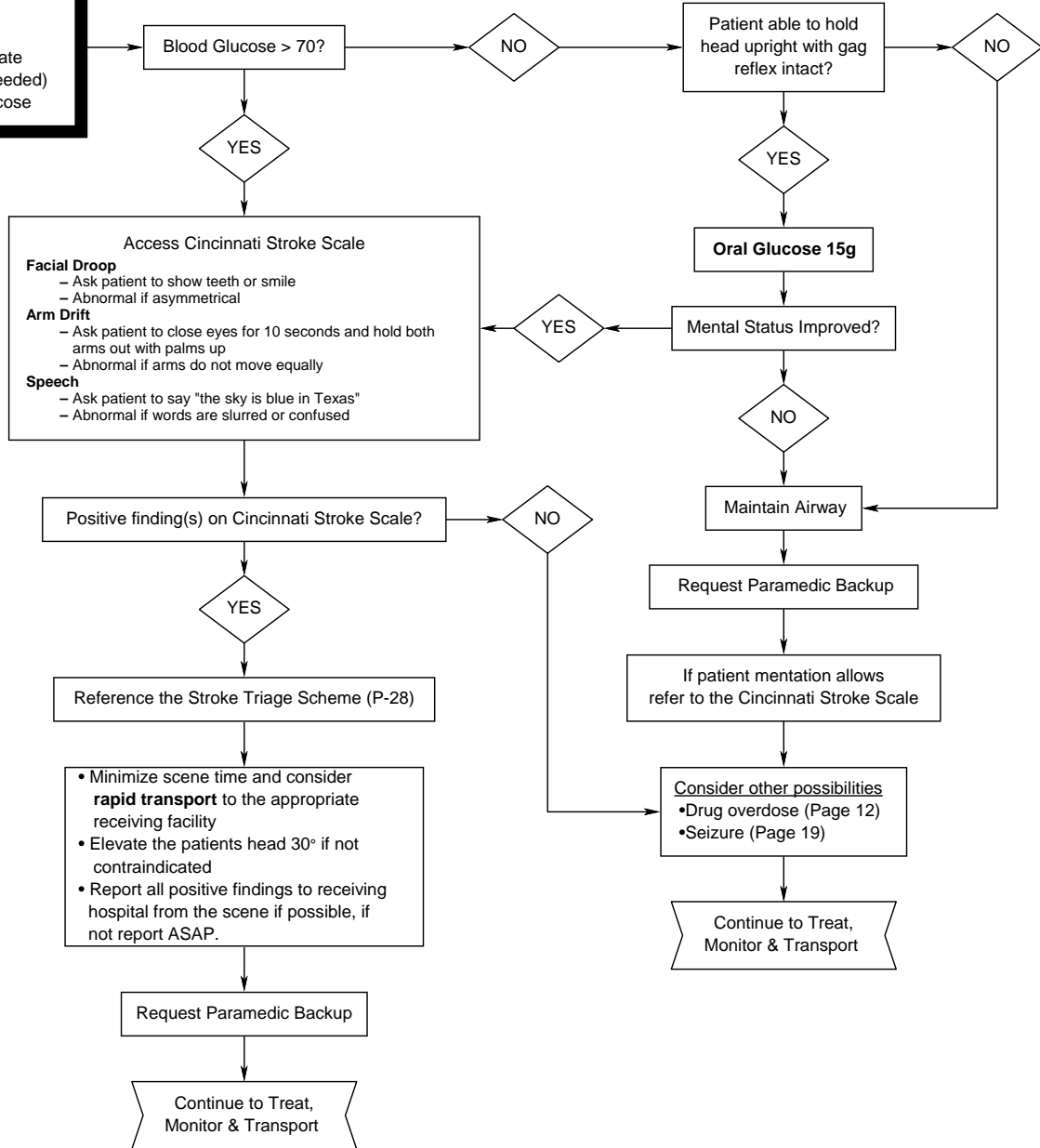


- *
- Paramedic backup must be requested for all pregnant patients that are seizing or have had a seizure prior to EMS arrival in order to treat for Eclampsia.
 - Eclampsia is defined as a presentation of an unexplained seizure or convulsion in the setting of the signs and symptoms of Pre-Eclampsia. Not all patients will be clinically diagnosed with Pre-Eclampsia. It is considered a complication of severe Pre-Eclampsia. It typically occurs during or after the 20th week of gestation or in the postpartum period.

STROKE / TIA or NEUROLOGICAL DEFICIT*



1. ABCs
2. **Oxygen**
3. Assist Ventilations if Respirations Inadequate (Insert OPA/NPA if needed)
4. Determine Blood Glucose



*NEUROLOGICAL DEFICIT

1. Any Sudden Motor or Sensory Deficit
2. Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding
3. Sudden difficulty seeing in one or both eyes
4. Sudden trouble walking, coordination, or focal weakness

If possible inquire about the patients baseline neurological state.
Chronic neurological deficits do not warrant rapid transport to a Stroke Center. ALWAYS err on the side of caution if questionable.