
Acute Altered Mental Status

The purpose of this protocol is to provide for the assessment and treatment of patients with altered mental status such as alcohol, trauma, poisonings, seizures, behavioral problems, stroke, environmental causes, infection, etc.

Pre-Medical Control

MFR/EMT/SPECIALIST/PARAMEDIC

1. Follow **General Pre-hospital Care Protocol**.
2. Restrain patient if necessary.

EMT/SPECIALIST/PARAMEDIC

3. **If the patient is alert** but demonstrating signs of hypoglycemia, measure blood glucose level, if available, if less than 60 mg/dl administer oral high caloric fluid.
4. **If patient is not alert or vital signs are unstable:**
 - a. Evaluate and maintain airway, provide oxygenation and support ventilations as needed.
 - b. If no concern regarding spinal injury, place the patient on either side.
5. Measure blood glucose level:
 - a. Consider oral glucose if less than 60 mg/dl

PARAMEDIC

- b. Administer **dextrose 50%** 25 grams (50 cc) IV, small amounts of oral glucose paste, buccal or sublingual.

<u>Glucagon</u>

- | |
|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Included
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Included |
|--|

6. **If unable to start IV, when D50 indicated:**
 - a. Administer **glucagon 1 mg IM**.
 - b. Consider re-check of blood glucose 10 minutes after glucose/glucagon administration.
7. If no response to the 50% dextrose, or 50% dextrose not indicated, and respiratory depression is present, give up to 2 mg **naloxone** IV or IM, titrating to improve respiratory status.
8. Contact Medical Control

Michigan
Adult Treatment Protocols
ACUTE ALTERED MENTAL STATUS

Date: September 1, 2009

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