Altered Mental Status

The purpose of this protocol is to provide for the assessment and treatment of patients with altered mental status. Consideration should be given to treatable and reversible causes due to hypoglycemia, opioid overdose or unknown etiology.

Pre-Medical Control
MFR/EMT/SPECIALIST/PARAMEDIC
1. Follow General Pre-hospital Care Protocol.
2. If respiratory depression is present due to suspected opioid overdose, administer Naloxone per Narcan Protocol.
3. Restrain patient if necessary, refer to Patient Restraint Procedure.
4. If patient is not alert or vital signs are unstable:
   A. Evaluate and maintain airway, provide oxygenation and support ventilations as needed per Airway Management and Oxygenation Protocols.
   B. If no suspected spinal injury, place the patient in recovery position.

MFR
5. For a known diabetic, consider small amounts of oral glucose if unable to measure blood glucose level.

MFR (if MCA approved)/EMT/SPECIALIST/PARAMEDIC
1. If the patient is alert but demonstrating signs of hypoglycemia, measure blood glucose level.
   A. If less than 60 mg/dl, administer oral glucose.

SPECIALIST/PARAMEDIC
2. If glucose is less than 60 mg/dl, and patient is demonstrating signs of hypoglycemia:
   A. Administer Dextrose 50%, 25 grams (50 ml) IV or small amounts of oral glucose.
   B. Per MCA selection, if unable to start IV, when Dextrose 50% is indicated, administer glucagon.

3. Recheck the blood glucose 10 minutes after glucose/glucagon administration (Per MCA selection).

4. Contact Medical Control.

Glucagon
1 mg IM

- Included
- Not Included
The purpose of this protocol is to provide for the assessment and treatment of patients with altered mental status of unknown etiology such as alcohol, trauma, poisonings, seizures, behavioral problems, stroke, environmental causes, infection, etc.

Follow General Pre-hospital Care Protocol

Restrain patient if necessary, refer to Patient Restraint Procedure.

Measure blood glucose level, if available

If less than 60 mg/dl:
Administer oral high caloric fluid

If glucose less than 60 mg/dl & patient demonstrating signs of hypoglycemia:

- Administer Dextrose 50%, 25 grams (50 ml) IV or small amounts of oral glucose paste, buccal or sublingual
- Per MCA selection, if unable to start IV when Dextrose 50% is indicated, administer glucagon.

Re-check blood glucose 10 minutes after glucose/glucagon administration (Per MCA selection)

If respiratory depression is present, give Naloxone 2 mg IV slowly, titrating to improve respiratory status or IM, repeat as needed every 2-3 minutes.

CONTACT MEDICAL CONTROL