



Drowning/Near Drowning

Injury

CRITERIA

- Victims of near-drowning accidents
- History of diving or breathing compressed air
- Symptoms might include:
 - CNS changes
 - Numbness
 - Pain in extremities
 - Joint pain
 - Blurred vision
 - Blood from nose and mouth
 - Seizures

PROTOCOL

EMR	Follow <i>General – Universal Patient Care/Initial Patient Contact protocol.</i>	EMR
EMR	Use backboard to remove the patient from the water; consider spinal immobilization	EMR
EMR	Remove wet clothing. Keep patient warm and dry	EMR

PEARLS

- 🔔 Any near-drowning or water-related injury patient should be transported to a medical facility for follow-up care regardless of current presentation.
- 🔔 Initiate aggressive attempts at resuscitation for the victim of cold-water submersion (less than 70 degrees F)
- 🔔 Consider HEMS .
- 🔔 Contact Medical Control to consider direct transport to a medical facility with a DAN-certified recompression chamber:
 - Divers Alert Network: *1-919 -684-9111 for emergencies.*
 - Sentara Leigh Hyperbaric Medicine: *1-757-261-4325.*
- 🔔 Be alert for vomiting: prepare to suction.