

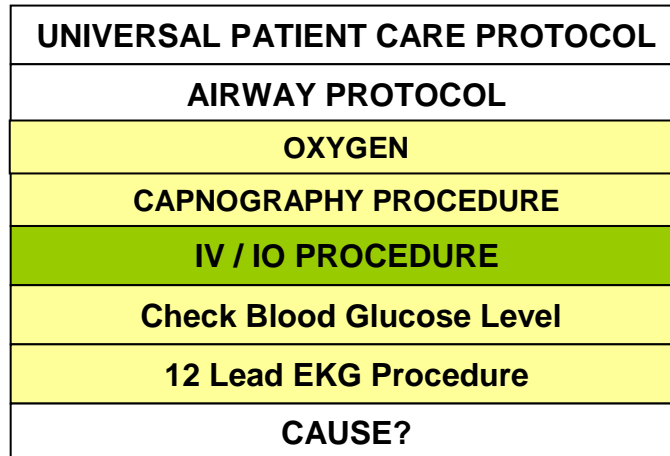


Section 5: Adult Medical Emergencies Protocol

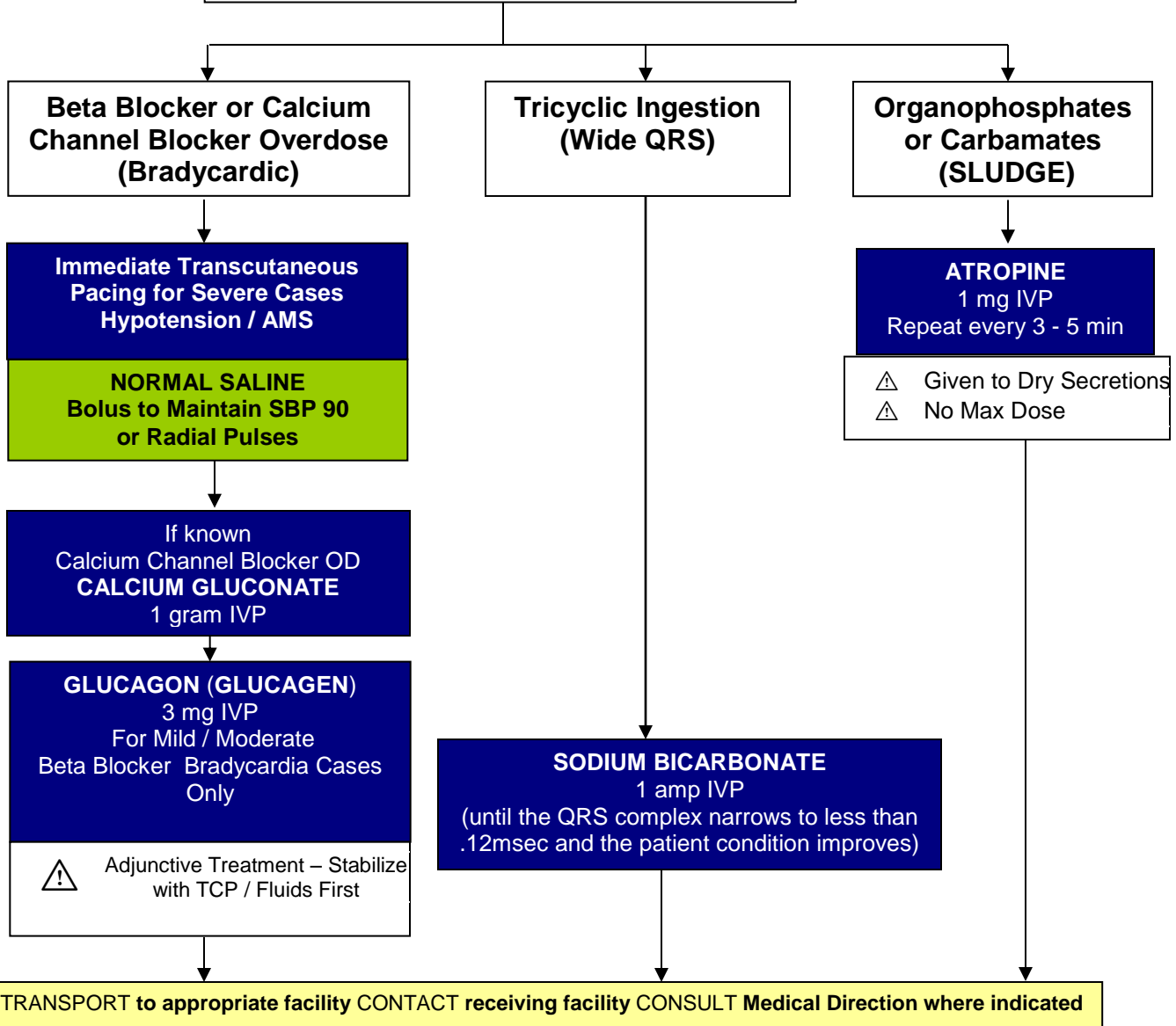
ADULT MEDICAL EMERGENCIES: TOXIC INGESTION / EXPOSURE / OVERDOSE

Hypotension
Seizures
Dysrhythmias
Mental Status Changes
Respiratory Depression

TREAT PER APPROPRIATE PROTOCOL



| | | |
|---|-------------|---|
| E | EMT | E |
| A | AEMT | A |
| P | PARAMEDIC | P |
| M | MED CONTROL | M |





Section 5: Adult Medical Emergencies Protocol

ADULT MEDICAL EMERGENCIES: TOXIC INGESTION / EXPOSURE / OVERDOSE-Cont.

PEARLS and KEY POINTS

| HISTORY | SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS | DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ingestion or suspected ingestion of a potentially toxic substance• Substance ingested, route, quantity• Time of ingestion• Reason (suicidal, accidental, criminal)• Available medications in home• Past medical history, medications | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mental status changes• Hypo / hypertension• Decreased respiratory rate• Tachycardia, dysrhythmias• Seizures | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs)• Acetaminophen (Tylenol)• Depressants• Stimulants• Anticholinergic• Cardiac medications• Solvents, alcohols, Cleaning agents• Insecticides (organophosphates)• Respiratory depression• Other organophosphates• Carbamates |

GREATER CLEVELAND POISON CONTROL 1-800-222-1222

- Do not rely on patient history of ingestion, especially in suicide attempts.
- Bring bottles, contents, and emesis to ED.
- **Tricyclic:** 4 major areas of toxicity: seizures, dysrhythmias, hypotension, decreased mental status or coma; rapid progression from alert mental status to death.
- **Acetaminophen:** initially normal or nausea / vomiting. If not detected and treated, causes irreversible liver failure.
- **Depressants:** decreased HR, decreased BP, decreased temperature, decreased respirations, non-specific pupils.
- **Stimulants:** increased HR, increased BP, increased temperature, dilated pupils, and seizures.
- **Anticholinergics:** increased HR, increased temperature, dilated pupils, and mental status changes.
- **Cardiac Medications:** dysrhythmias and mental status changes.
- **Solvents:** nausea, vomiting, and mental status changes.
- **Insecticides:** increased or decreased HR, increased secretions, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, pinpoint pupils.
- Consider restraints if necessary for patient's and / or personnel's protection per the Restraint Procedure.
- If it can be done safely, take whatever container the substance came from to the hospital along with readily obtainable samples of medication unless this results in an unreasonable delay of transport.
- If applicable, DO NOT transport a patient to the hospital until properly decontaminate