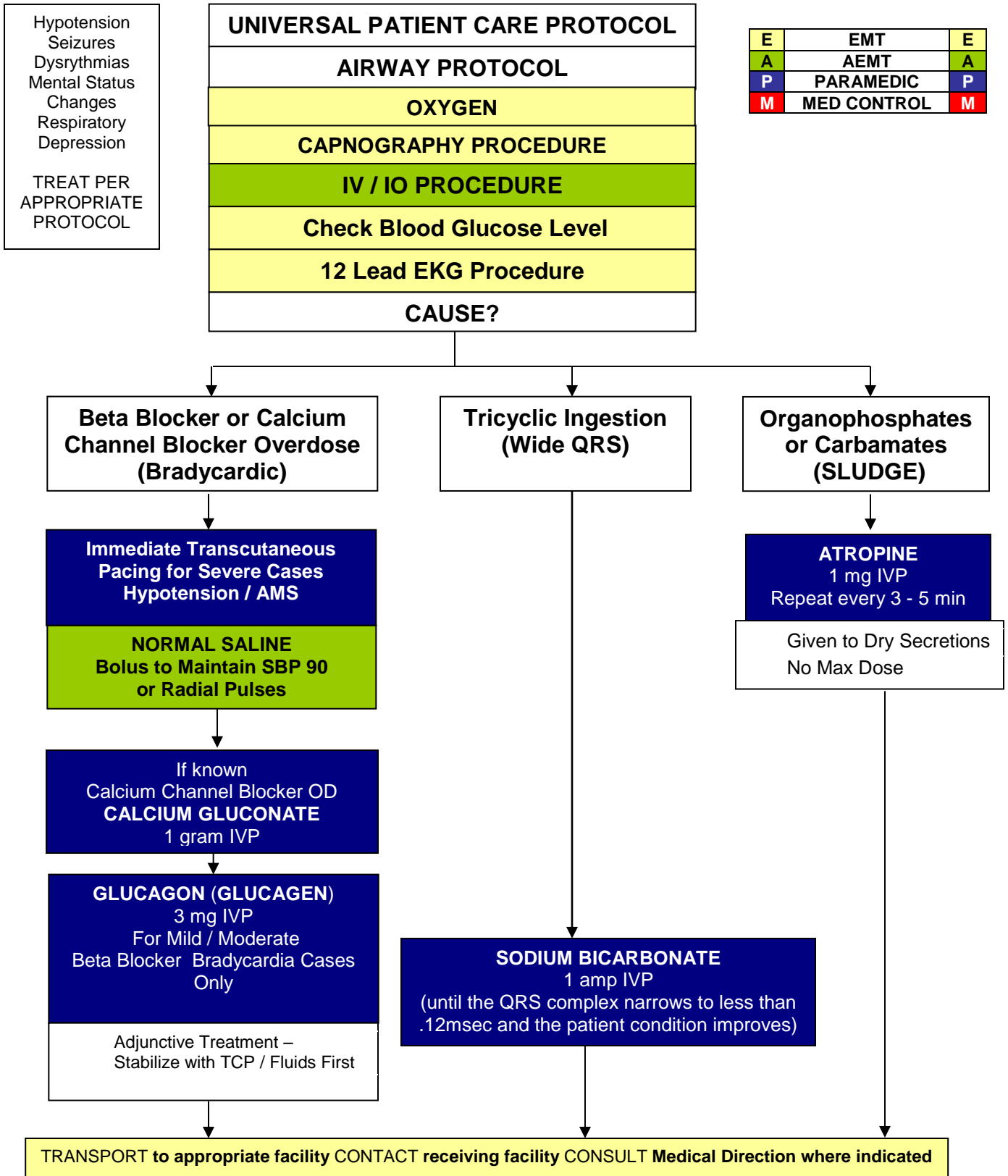




# Section 5: Adult Medical Emergencies Protocol

## ADULT MEDICAL EMERGENCIES: TOXIC INGESTION / EXPOSURE / OVERDOSE





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

#### PEARLS and KEY POINTS

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

#### 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