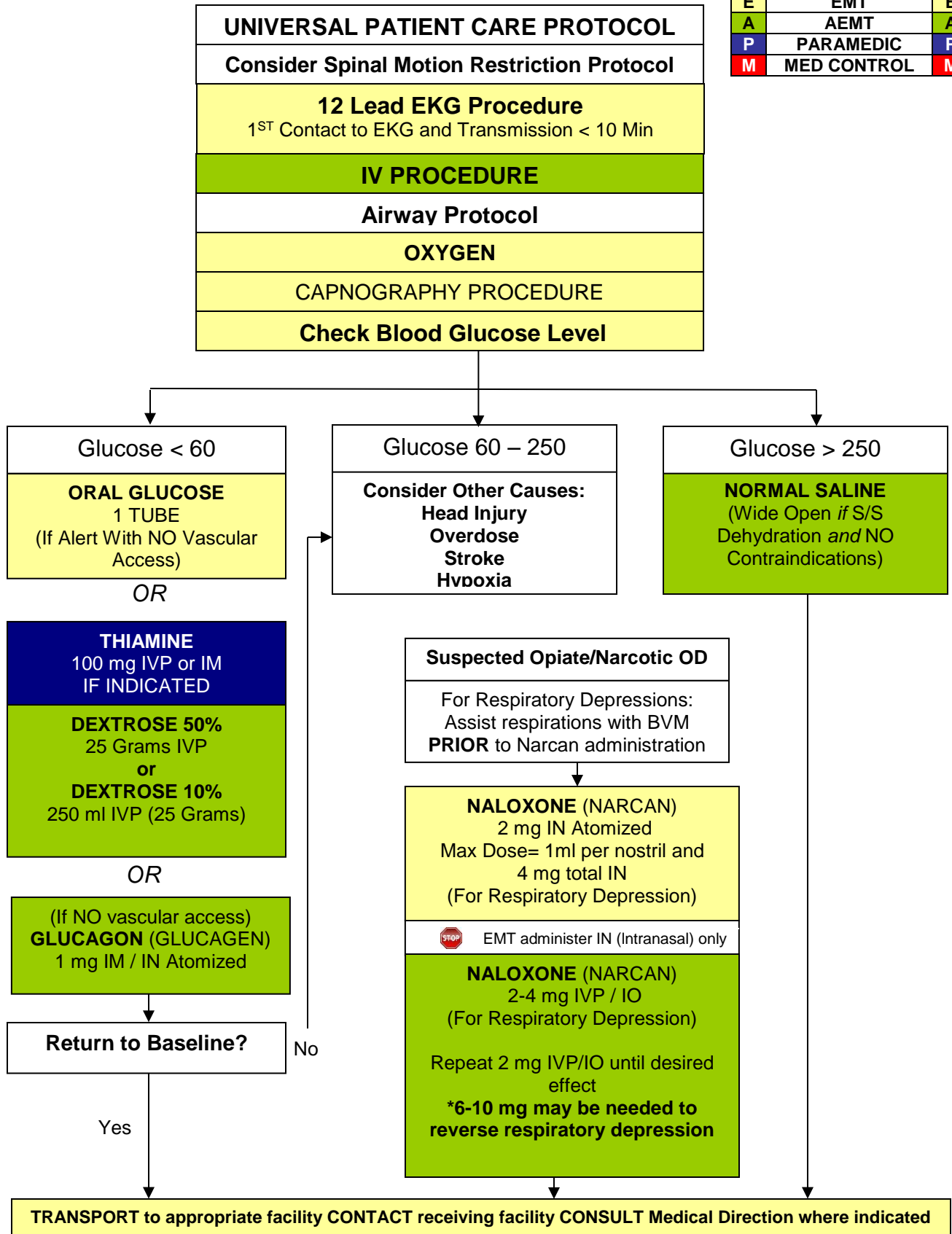




# Section 5: Adult Medical Emergencies Protocol

## ADULT MEDICAL EMERGENCIES: ALTERED LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS

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





## Section 5: Adult Medical Emergencies Protocol

### ADULT MEDICAL EMERGENCIES: ALTERED LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS-Cont.

#### PEARLS and KEY POINTS

HISTORY	SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Known diabetic, medic alert tag</li><li>• Drugs, drug paraphernalia</li><li>• Report of illicit drug use or toxic ingestion</li><li>• Past medical history</li><li>• Medications</li><li>• History of trauma</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Decreased mental status</li><li>• Change in baseline mental status</li><li>• Bizarre behavior</li><li>• Hypoglycemia (cool, diaphoretic skin)</li><li>• Hyperglycemia (warm, dry skin; fruity breath; Kussmaul resps; signs of dehydration)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Head trauma</li><li>• CNS (stroke, tumor, seizure, infection)</li><li>• Cardiac (MI, CHF)</li><li>• Infection</li><li>• Thyroid (hyper / hypo)</li><li>• Shock (septic, metabolic, traumatic)</li><li>• Diabetes (hyper / hypoglycemia)</li><li>• Toxicological incident</li><li>• Acidosis / alkalosis</li><li>• Environmental exposure</li><li>• Pulmonary (hypoxia)</li><li>• Electrolyte abnormality</li><li>• Psychiatric disorder</li></ul>

- Exam: Mental Status, HEENT, Skin, Heart, Lungs, Abdomen, Back, Extremities, Neuro
- Be aware of AMS as potential sign of an environmental toxin or Haz-Mat exposure and protect personal safety.
- It is safer to assume hypoglycemia than hyperglycemia if doubt exists.
- Do not let alcohol confuse the clinical picture. Alcoholics frequently develop hypoglycemia and need Thiamine before glucose.
- Low glucose (< 60), normal glucose (60 - 120), high glucose (> 250).
- Consider restraints if necessary for patient's and / or personnel's protection per the restraint procedure.
- Protect the patient airway and support ABCs.
- Document the patient's glasgow coma score pre and post treatment.
- Signs and symptoms of narcotic overdose include respiratory depression and altered mental status.
- Naloxone (Narcan) administration may cause the patient to go into acute opiate withdrawal, which includes vomiting, agitation, and / or combative behavior. Always be prepared for combative behavior.
- Narcan 6-10 mg may be needed to reverse respiratory depression. Repeat 2 mg IV/IO every 3 min until desired effect is achieved.