

Subject: Treatment Guidelines – BLS
Poisoning/Overdose

Associated Policies:

- I. Priorities
 - A. Protect yourself and others from exposure to poison.
 - B. ABC's.
 - C. Oxygen per Oxygen Administration Policy # 6030.
 - D. Treat for shock, as needed.
 - E. Communicate with transporting ambulance.
- II. Poisoning/Overdose
 - A. Basic Treatment:
 - 1. Support respirations with bag valve mask or positive pressure ventilations, as needed.
 - 2. Administer oxygen per Policy #6030.
 - 3. Obtain accurate history of incident.
 - 4. Name of product or substance.
 - 5. Quantity ingested, duration of exposure.
 - 6. Time elapsed since ingestion.
 - 7. Pertinent medical history; chronic illness, medical problems within the last twenty-four (24) hours, medications.
 - 8. If transport delayed more than fifteen (15) minutes, consider calling Poison Control Center.
 - 9. Position of comfort or coma position, as indicated.
 - 10. Bring product or substance and container to hospital with patient.
 - 11. Do not administer antidotes in the field. Product label antidotes are frequently wrong.
 - 12. Communicate with transporting ambulance.
 - B. Ingested Poisons:
 - 1. Follow basic treatment above, and
 - a. Identify substance ingested.
 - b. Estimate quantity of substance ingested and time ingested.
 - c. Give nothing by mouth.
 - C. Inhaled Poisons:
 - 1. Follow basic treatment above, and
 - a. Remove patient to fresh air.
 - b. Oxygen per Policy # 6030.
 - c. Identify substance inhaled.
 - d. Estimate duration of exposure.
 - e. Monitor patient closely for airway changes due to swelling of soft tissue, chemical burns or toxic exposures.

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- D. Poison on Skin (Absorbed):
 - 1. Follow basic treatment above, and
 - a. Remove contaminated clothing and jewelry. If contaminant is a dry powder, brush off before washing, and flood skin with water for ten (10) minutes.
 - b. Identify contaminant.
- E. Poison in the Eye:
 - 1. Follow basic treatment above, and
 - a. Flood eye(s) with lukewarm water continuously for at least fifteen (15) minutes. Remove contact lenses. Have patient blink frequently during irrigation.
 - b. Identify contaminant.
- F. Snakebite:
 - 1. Follow basic treatment above, and
 - a. Poisonous Snake Bite: Refer to BLS Envenomation Treatment Guideline.
- G. Alcohol/Drug:
 - 1. Follow basic treatment above, and
 - a. Assess patient closely for other possible causes of change in mentation. (IE diabetes, head trauma)
 - b. If suspected opioid overdose go to Policy # 6044.
 - c. Assess need for Spinal Motion Restriction with any patient with facial injuries or history falls.
 - d. If no trauma, place patient left lateral with head and shoulders elevated if altered or unconscious.
 - e. Secure the airway with appropriate airway adjunct.
 - f. Oxygen per policy.
 - g. Be prepared to support respirations.
 - h. Per prepared for vomiting and monitor closely for need to suction.
 - i. Obtain history.

Approved: 

Approved as to Form: 