



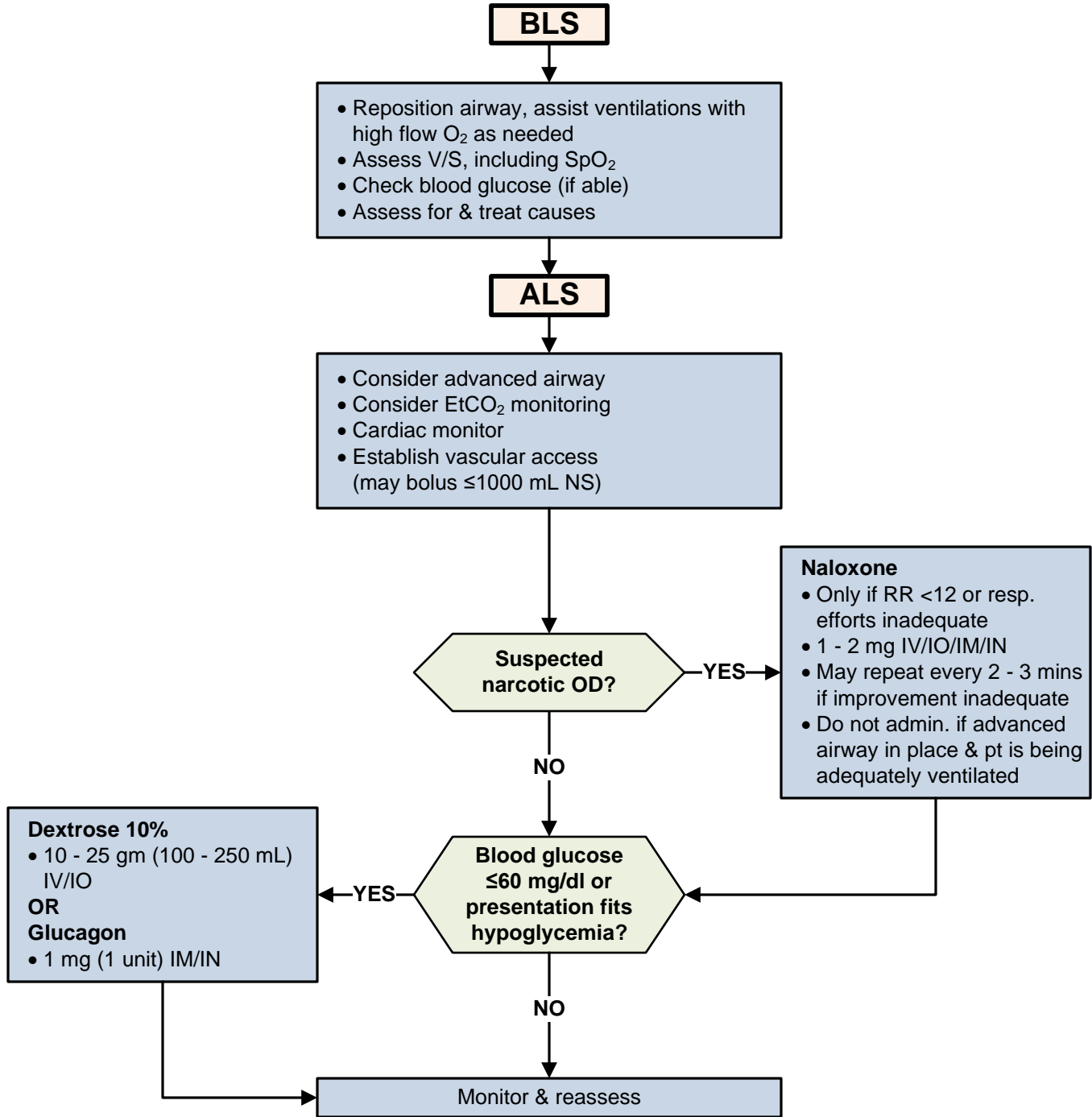
Respiratory Arrest

Approval: Troy M. Falck, MD – Medical Director

Effective: 12/01/2022

Approval: John Poland – Executive Director

Next Review: 09/2025





Ingestions & Overdoses

Approval: Troy M. Falck, MD – Medical Director

Effective: 12/01/2022

Approval: John Poland – Executive Director

Next Review: 09/2025

Guidelines for EMS use of Activated Charcoal

BASE/MODIFIED BASE HOSPITAL PHYSICIAN ORDER ONLY

Activated charcoal is an agent used for gastric decontamination following overdose ingestion. Clinical research only supports its use when given early after ingestion. While activated charcoal may be helpful when given rapidly after an overdose, it is very important to avoid administration in cases where potential contraindications exist.

Activated Charcoal Indications

- Early administration - usually within 1 hour of ingestion (agent still in stomach)
- Potentially deadly agent
- No effective antidote
- No contraindications
- Suggested agents where EMS administration of activated charcoal is appropriate:
 - Antidepressants - Anticonvulsants - Digoxin
 - Calcium channel blockers - Beta blockers

Activated Charcoal Contraindications

- Obtunded/altered level of consciousness
- Known caustic ingestion (acid or alkali)
- Known hydrocarbon ingestion
- Suspected GI obstruction (vomiting)
- Agents not well absorbed by activated charcoal (relative contraindication), examples include:
 - Lithium
 - Iron
 - Toxic alcohol

BLS

- O₂ at appropriate flow rate, manage airway and assist ventilations as necessary
- Assess V/S including SpO₂
- Identify substance and time of ingestion: bring sample in original container if safe/possible
- Check blood glucose (BG) if able

BG ≤60 mg/dl or hx & clinical picture fits hypoglycemia?

- Oral glucose (BLS)**
- 15 - 25 gm
- OR
- Dextrose 10% (ALS)**
- 10 - 25 gm (100 - 250 mL) IV/IO
- OR
- Glucagon (ALS)**
- 1 mg (1 unit) IM/IN

ALS

- Cardiac monitor
- Establish vascular access at appropriate time (may bolus up to 1000 mL NS)
- Refer to page 2 for ingestion/overdose agent specific therapy

Consider activated charcoal – BASE/MODIFIED BASE HOSPITAL PHYSICIAN ORDER ONLY

- 50 gm PO routine dose



Ingestions & Overdoses

Treatment Notes

- Poison Control telephone number: (800) 876-4766 or (800) 222-1222.
- Refer to S-SV EMS Hazardous Materials Exposure Protocol (E-7) if pt exposed externally to organophosphate, carbamate or hydrofluoric acid.
- Oral ingestions of hydrofluoric acid require immediate treatment as it can cause fatal hypocalcemia – early signs of hypocalcemia include:
 - Tingling sensation around mouth, lips, hands or feet
 - Hand or foot spasms
 - QT interval prolongation

Ingestion/Overdose Agent Specific Therapy

Beta Blockers

May admin. up to 1000 mL NS bolus if SBP <90

Atropine 1 mg IV/IO

- Only if HR <50 and SBP <90 after NS bolus
- May repeat every 5 mins (max total: 3 mg)

Glucagon 1 mg (1 unit) IV/IO

- Only if HR <50 and SBP <90
- If no IV/IO, may admin. 1 mg IM/IN

Push-Dose Epinephrine

- Only if HR <50 and SBP <90
- Eject 1 mL NS from a 10 mL pre-load syringe
- Draw up 1 mL epinephrine 1:10,000 concentration and gently mix
- Admin. 1 mL IV/IO push every 1 - 5 mins
- Titrate to maintain SBP >90

Calcium Channel Blockers

May admin. up to 1000 mL NS bolus if SBP <90

Calcium Chloride 10% 10 mL slow IV/IO

- Only if SBP <90
- Admin. no faster than 1 mL/min
- May repeat every 5 mins (maximum: 4 total doses)

Narcotics

Naloxone

- Only if RR <12 or respiratory efforts inadequate
- 1 - 2 mg IV/IO/IM/IN
- May repeat every 2 - 3 mins if improvement inadequate
- Do not admin. if advanced airway in place & pt is being adequately ventilated

Tricyclic Antidepressants

Sodium Bicarbonate 1 mEq/kg IV/IO - if any of the following are present:

- SBP <90
- QRS >0.12 seconds (3 small boxes)
- Seizures

Hydrofluoric Acid

Calcium Chloride 10% 10 mL slow IV/IO

- Only if signs of hypocalcemia
- Admin. no faster than 1 mL/min

Organophosphate Or Carbamate

Atropine 2 mg IV/IO

- Only if HR <60
- May repeat every 3 mins – no max dose



General Medical Treatment

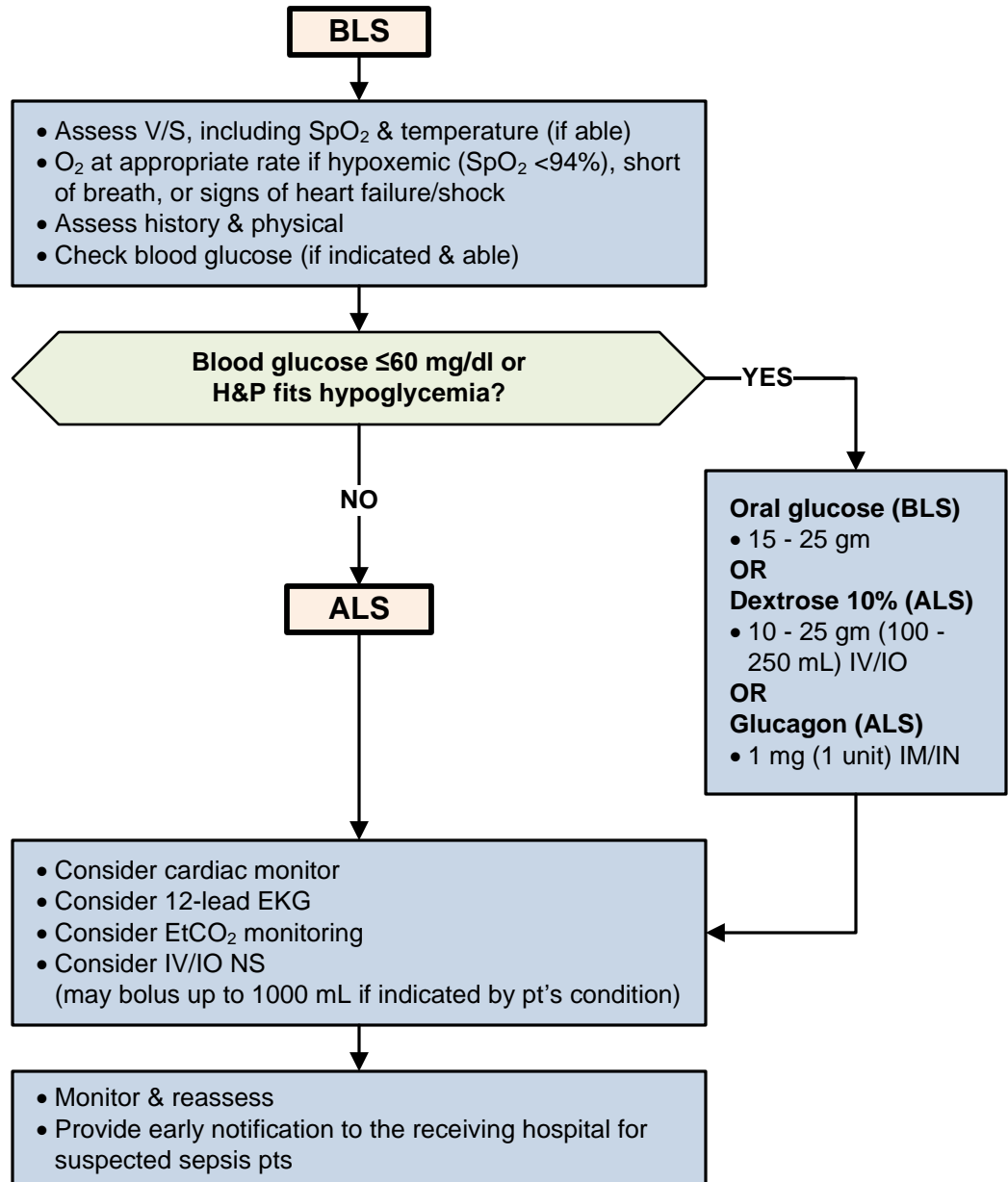
Approval: Troy M. Falck, MD – Medical Director

Effective: 12/01/2022

Approval: John Poland – Executive Director

Next Review: 09/2025

- Consider the following:
 - Trauma - Recent ALOC - Syncope/near syncope - Shock - GI bleed - Abdominal pain
- Consider the possibility of sepsis when a combination (at least two) of the following Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome (SIRS) criteria are present in a pt with suspected infection:
 - Temperature $>100.4^{\circ}$ F or $<96.8^{\circ}$ F - RR >20 - HR >90 - EtCO₂ ≤ 25 mm Hg





CO Exposure/Poisoning

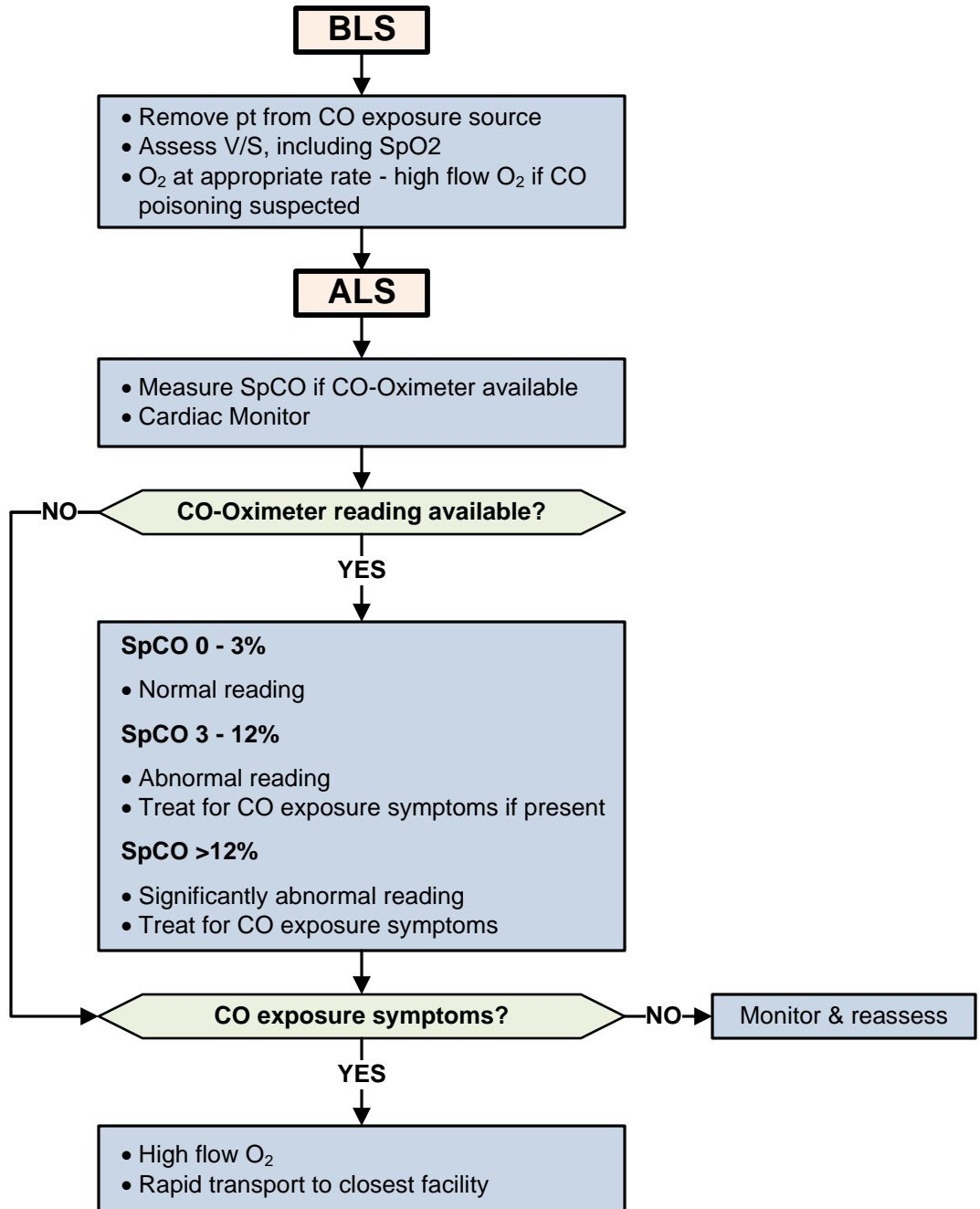
Approval: Troy M. Falck, MD – Medical Director

Effective: 12/01/2022

Approval: John Poland – Executive Director

Next Review: 09/2025

- Initial symptoms of CO exposure are insidious, similar to the flu and thus seemingly benign. These symptoms increase in severity as the SpCO level rises & may include one or more of the following:
 - Confusion
 - Dizziness/vertigo
 - Headache
 - Shortness of breath
 - Nausea/vomiting
 - Fatigue
 - Syncope
 - Confusion
 - Tachycardia
 - Cardiac arrhythmias
 - Seizures
 - Shock
 - Coma
 - Apnea





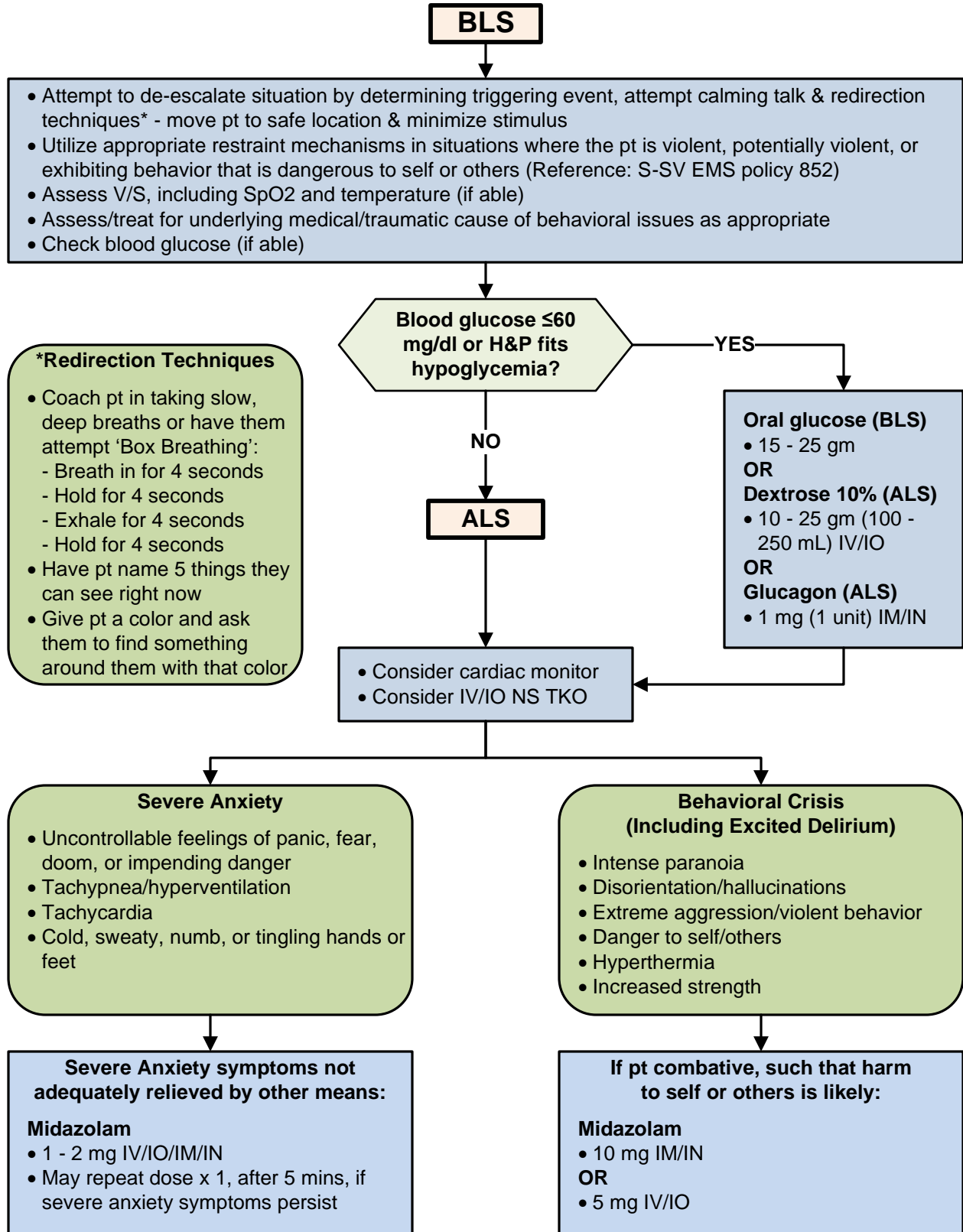
Behavioral Emergencies

Approval: Troy M. Falck, MD – Medical Director

Effective: 12/01/2022

Approval: John Poland – Executive Director

Next Review: 09/2025





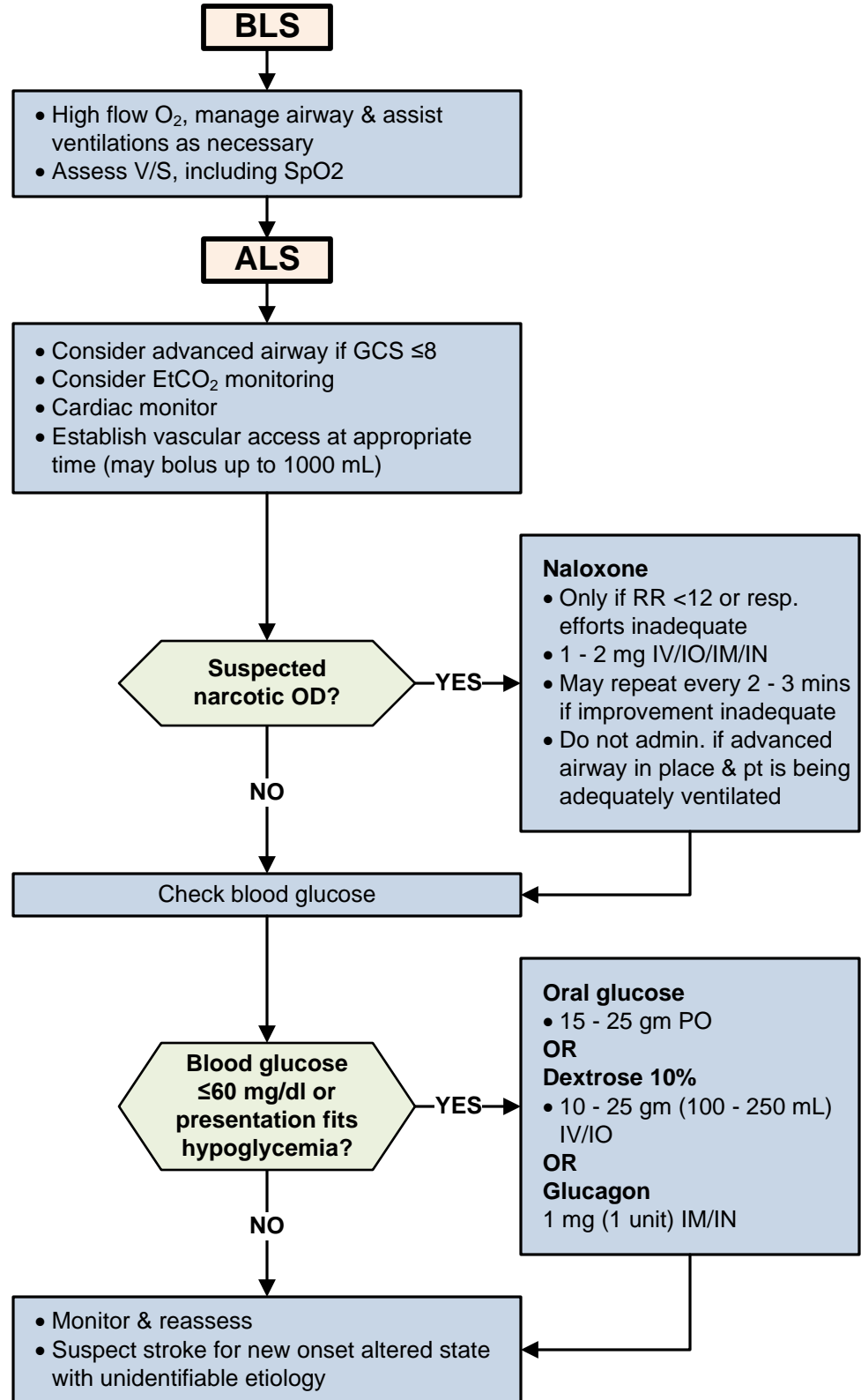
Altered Level Of Consciousness

Approval: Troy M. Falck, MD – Medical Director

Effective: 12/01/2022

Approval: John Poland – Executive Director

Next Review: 09/2025





Seizure

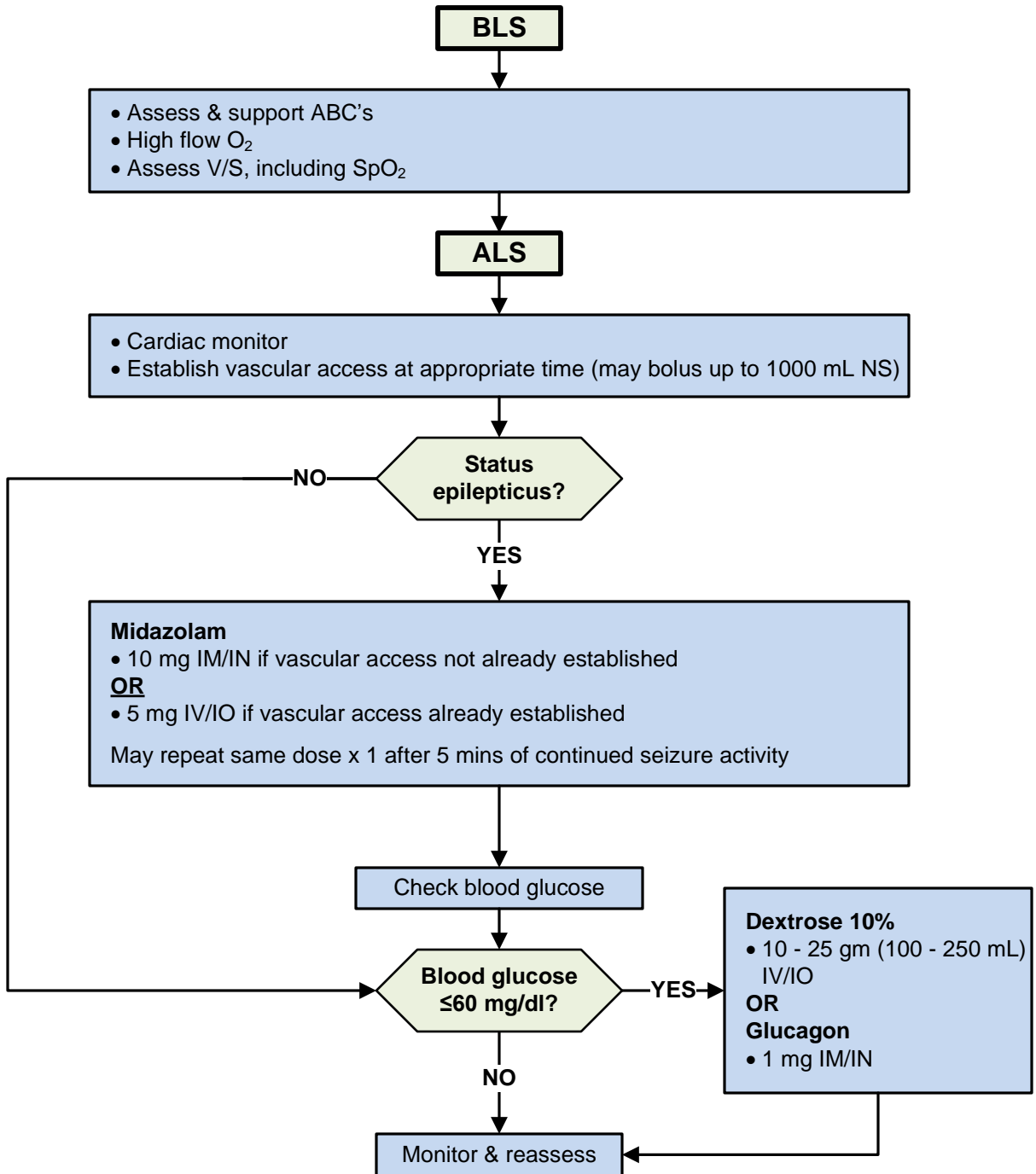
Approval: Troy M. Falck, MD – Medical Director

Effective: 12/01/2022

Approval: John Poland – Executive Director

Next Review: 09/2025

- **Status Epilepticus:** 2 or more seizures without periods of consciousness, or a single seizure lasting >5 mins.
- Transport patients >20 weeks pregnant in left-lateral position.





Hypothermia & Avalanche Resuscitation

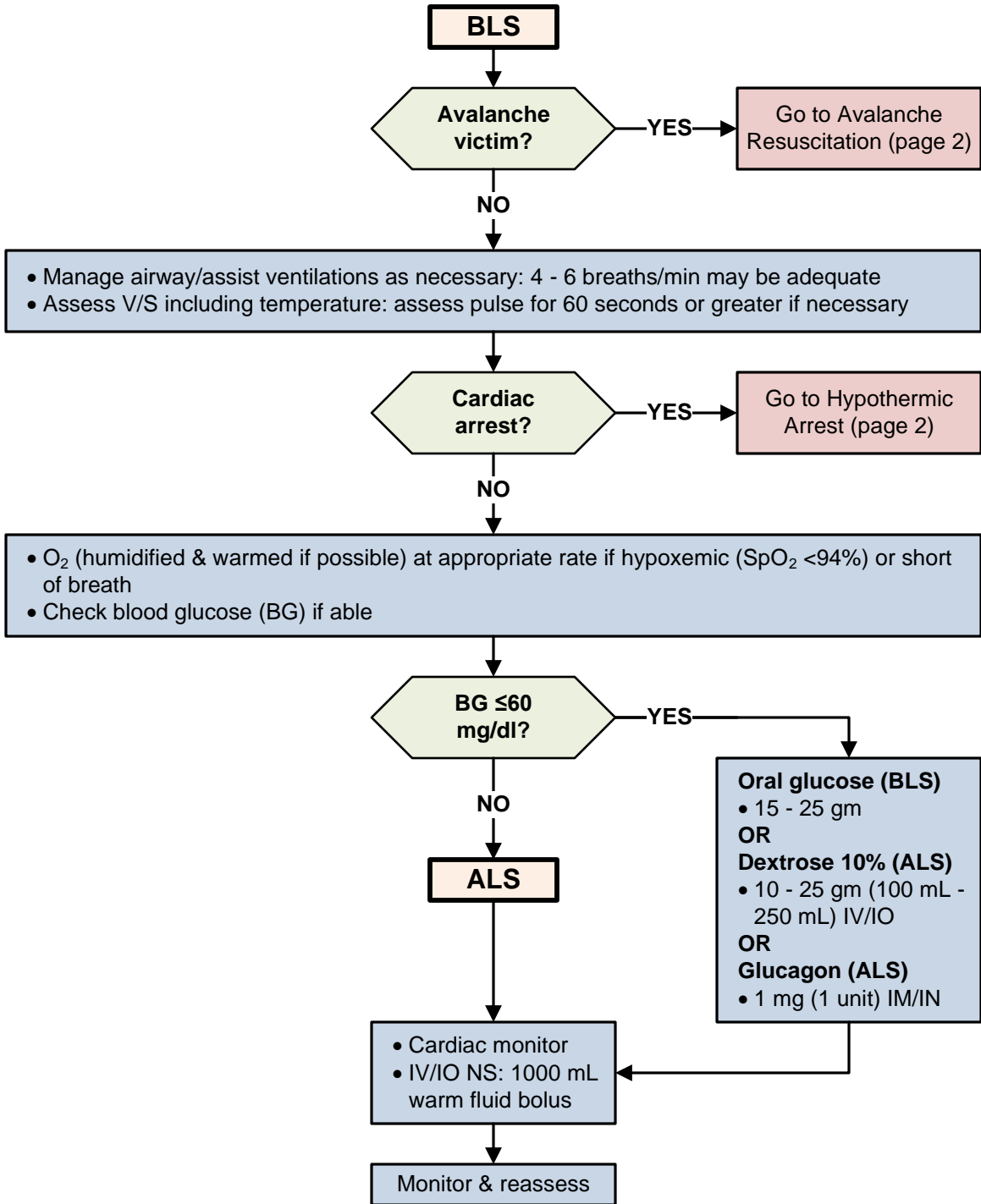
Approval: Troy M. Falck, MD – Medical Director

Effective: 12/01/2022

Approval: John Poland – Executive Director

Next Review: 09/2025

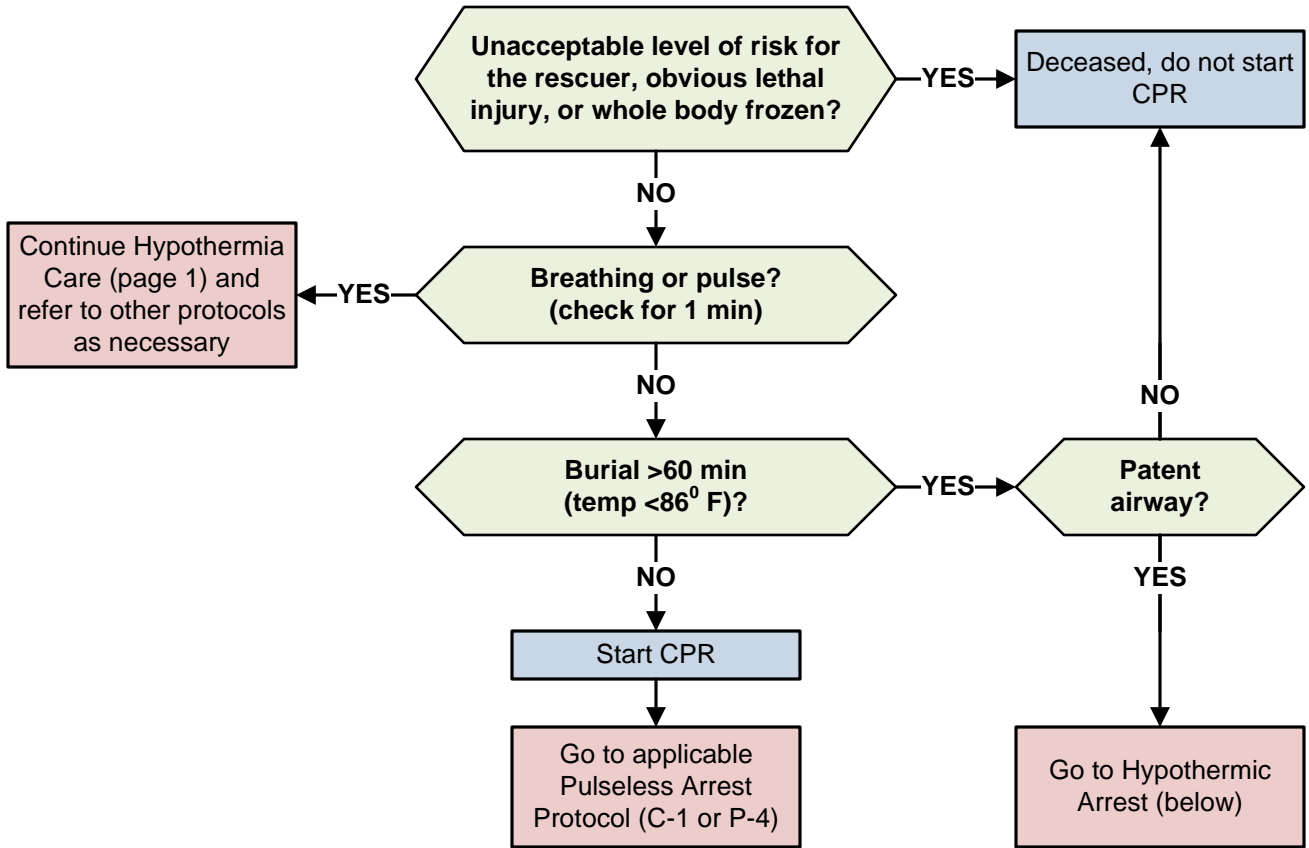
- Move pt to a warm environment, remove wet clothing, begin warming measures as soon as possible.
- Moderately & severely hypothermic pts should be handled as gently as possible.
- This protocol incorporates the official guidelines for the onsite treatment of avalanche victims established by the International Commission for Alpine Rescue (ICAR).





Hypothermia & Avalanche Resuscitation

Avalanche Resuscitation



Hypothermic Arrest

- Medications & defibrillation may be ineffective in a hypothermic cardiac arrest pt. If the pt is in v-fib, one shock & one round of medications should be delivered. It is reasonable to delay further defibrillation attempts & further medications until the pt is rewarmed.
- Continuing CPR & safe expedited transport to the nearest facility is the pt's best chance at survival.

