

**CO Exposure/Poisoning**

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Effective: 10/01/2025

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Next Review: 07/2028

- 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
- SpO2 readings may appear normal or falsely elevated in the presence of CO. Utilize clinical findings & history as indicators of hypoxia.
- CO poisoning may result in cardiac rhythm disturbances &/or myocardial ischemia.

**BLS**

- Remove pt from CO exposure source
- Assess V/S
- High flow O<sub>2</sub>
- Measure SpCO if CO-Oximeter available
  - SpCO 0 to 3% – Normal
  - SpCO 3 to 12% – Abnormal
  - SpCO >12% – Significantly abnormal

**LALS**

- Continuous cardiac & ETCO<sub>2</sub> monitoring (**AEMT II**)
- Perform 12-lead EKG (**AEMT II**)
  - Refer to appropriate cardiac protocol for management of cardiac related issues