

POLICY: 554.31
TITLE: Altered Level of Consciousness

EFFECTIVE: 9/1/2026
REVIEW: 8/2028
SUPERCEDES:

APPROVAL SIGNATURES ON FILE IN EMS OFFICE

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ALTERED LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS

- I. AUTHORITY
Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9
- II. PURPOSE
To serve as a patient treatment standard for EMRs, EMTs, AEMTs, and Paramedics within their scope of practice.
- III. PROTOCOL
Characterized by a Glasgow coma score of < 15 or change from baseline mental status, confusion, and unresponsiveness.

**Provider Key: F = First Responder/EMR E = EMT O = EMT Local Optional SOP
P = Paramedic A=Advanced EMT D = Base Hospital Physician Order Required**

	F	E	O	A	P	D
ASSESSMENT	X	X	X	X	X	
PULSE OXIMETRY: apply and monitor.		X	X	X	X	
CAPNOGRAPHY: apply and monitor.					X	
OXYGEN: if pulse oximetry < 94% or signs of respiratory distress or hypoperfusion.	X	X	X	X	X	
ECG MONITOR: lead placement may be delegated. Treat as indicated.					X	
12 LEAD EKG: consider.					X	
VASCULAR ACCESS: P - IV/IO, AEMT - IV only, rate as indicated.				X	X	
TEST FOR GLUCOSE		X	X	X	X	
ORAL GLUCOSE: consider administering oral glucose to patients who are awake and have an intact gag reflex.	X	X	X	X	X	
D10: infuse 100 mL IV/IO if blood glucose < 70 mg/dL. Recheck blood glucose 10 minutes post infusion. If blood glucose < 70 mg/dL infuse remaining 150 mL.				X	X	
GLUCAGON: If no IV/IO access and unable to tolerate oral glucose, give 1 mg IM if blood glucose < 70 mg/dL. Recheck blood glucose 10 minutes post injection. If blood glucose remains < 70 mg/dL, repeat 1 mg IM.				X	X	
NALOXONE: one spray pre-packaged IN (typically 2 – 4 mg) for respiratory depression. If opioid overdose is suspected, may repeat every 2 – 3 minutes in alternating nostrils, to a total of 12 mg. Consider alternate cause of obtundation/respiratory depression if ineffective.		X	X	X	X	

	F	E	O	A	P	D
NALOXONE: 0.4 - 2 mg IV/IO/IM for respiratory depression. If opioid overdose is suspected, may repeat in 0.4 - 2 mg increments to a total of 12 mg.				X	X	

RULE OUT

A- Alcohol
E- Epilepsy
I- Infection
O- Overdose/Underdose
U- Uremia

T- Trauma/Toxins
I- Insulin
P- Psychosis
S- Stroke