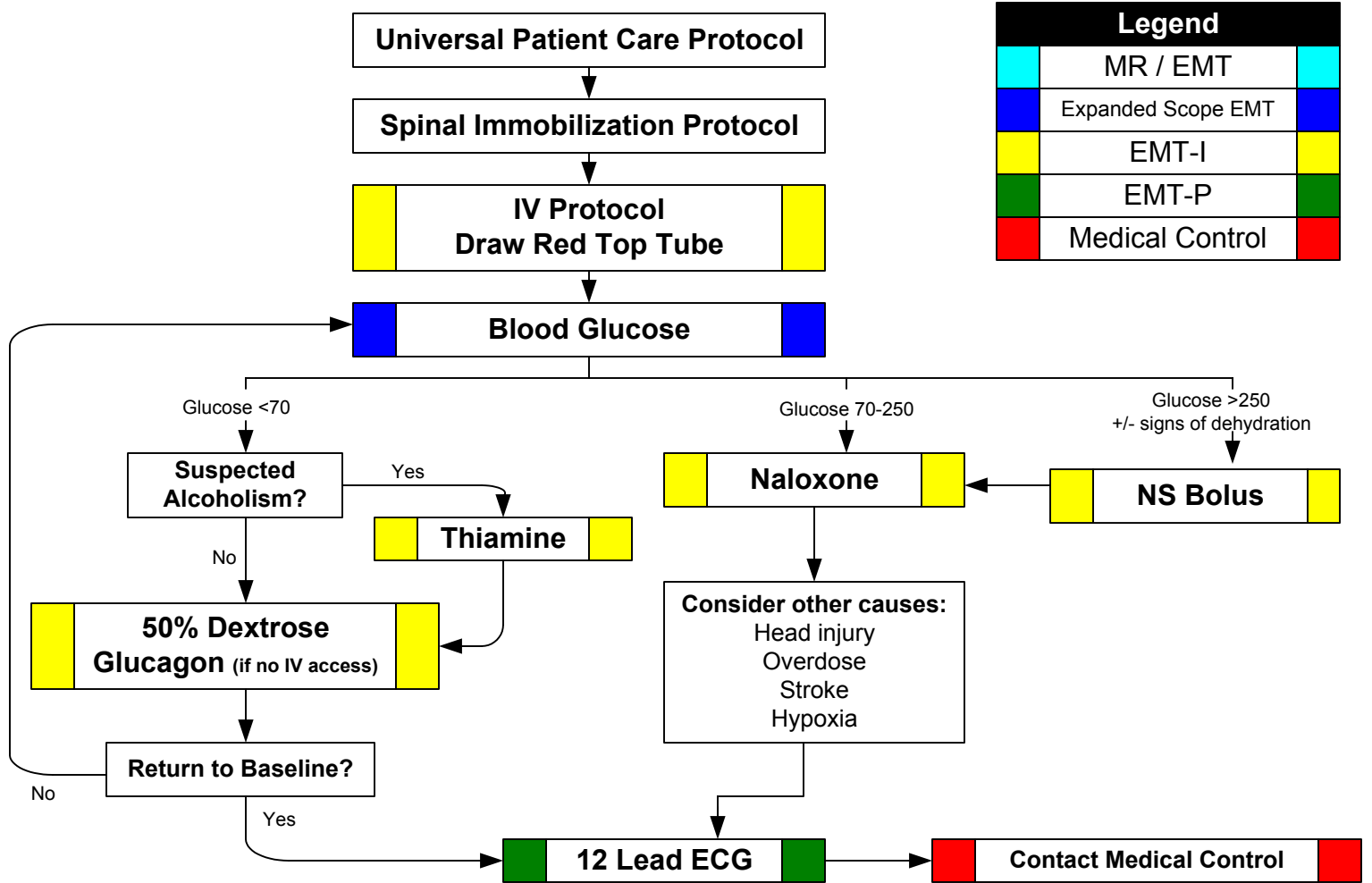


FORSYTH COUNTY EMS MEDICAL PROTOCOLS

Altered Mental Status

History: * Known diabetic, medic alert tag * Drugs, drug paraphernalia * Report of illicit drug use or toxic ingestion * Past medical history * Medications * History of trauma	Signs and Symptoms: * Decreased mental status * Change in baseline mental status * Bizarre behavior * Hypoglycemia (cool, diaphoretic) * Hyperglycemia (warm, dry, fruity breath; Kussmal resps; signs of dehydration)	Differential: * Head trauma * CNS * Cardiac * Infection * Thyroid * Diabetes * Acidosis/Alkalosis * Toxicologic * Shock * Environmental * Pulmonary * Electrolytes * Psychiatric * Seizure/Post Ictal
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Legend	
	MR / EMT
	Expanded Scope EMT
	EMT-I
	EMT-P
	Medical Control

Pearls:

- * **Exam: Mental Status, HEENT, Skin, Heart, Lungs, Abdomen, Back, Extremities, Neuro**
- * Be aware of Altered Mental Status as presenting 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.
- * **Consider Oral Glucose for patients with mild hypoglycemia who are awake and alert with a good gag reflex.**
- * Consider restraints if necessary for patient's and/or personnel's protection, per the restraint policy.
- * Look for clues concerning toxins / poisons on scene.