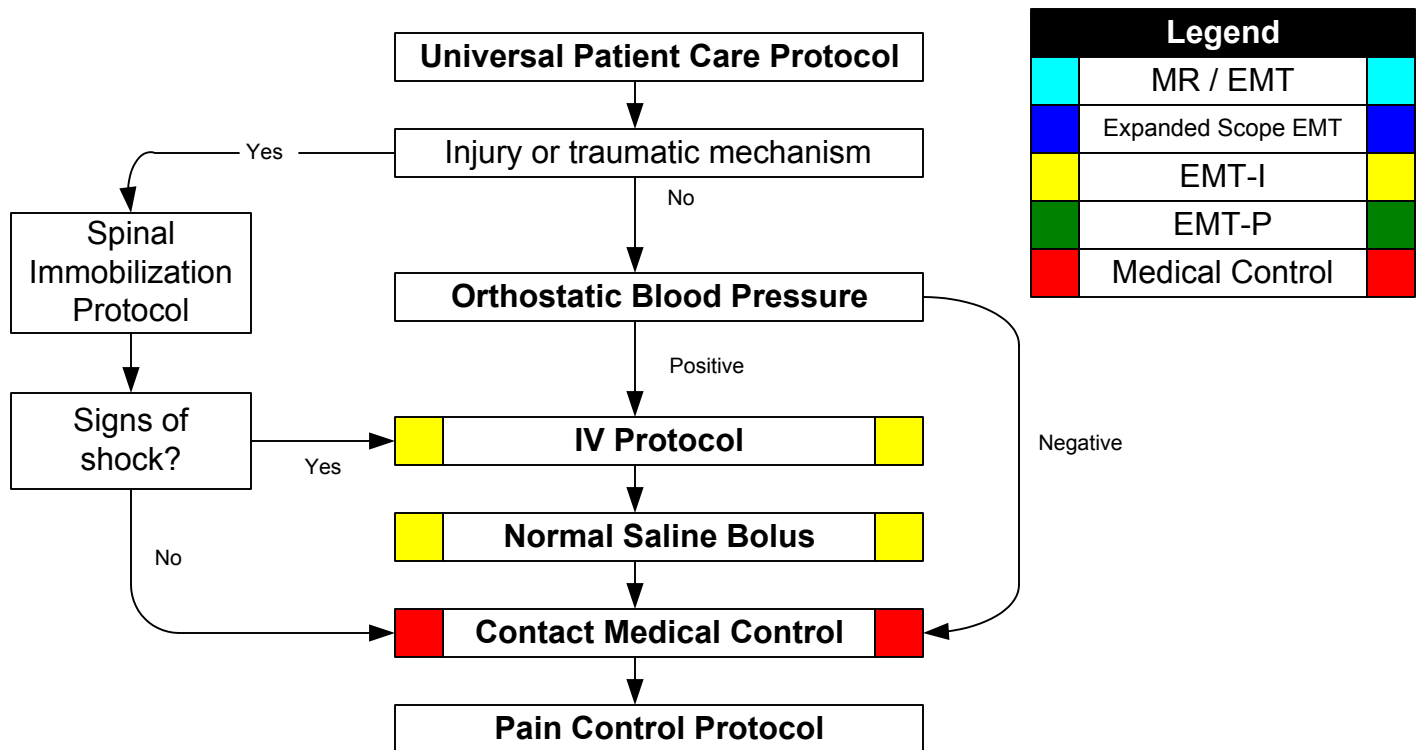


FORSYTH COUNTY EMS GENERAL PROTOCOLS

Back Pain

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| History: * Age * Past medical history * Past surgical history * Medications * Onset of pain / injury * Previous back injury * Traumatic mechanism * Location of pain * Fever * Improvement or worsening with activity | Signs and Symptoms: Pain (paraspinous, spinous process) Swelling Pain with range of motion Extremity weakness Extremity numbness Shooting pain into an extremity Bowel / bladder dysfunction | Differential: * Muscle spasm / strain * Herniated disc with nerve compression * Sciatica * Spine fracture * Kidney stone * Pyelonephritis * Aneurysm * Pneumonia |
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Pearls:

- * **Exam: Mental Status, HEENT, Neck, chest, Lungs, Abdomen, Back, Extremities, Neuro**
- * Abdominal aneurysms are a concern in patients over the age of 50
- * Kidney stones typically present with an acute onset of flank pain which radiates around to the groin area.
- * Patients with midline pain over the spinous processes should be spinally immobilized.
- * Any bowel or bladder incontinence is a significant finding which requires immediate medical evaluation.