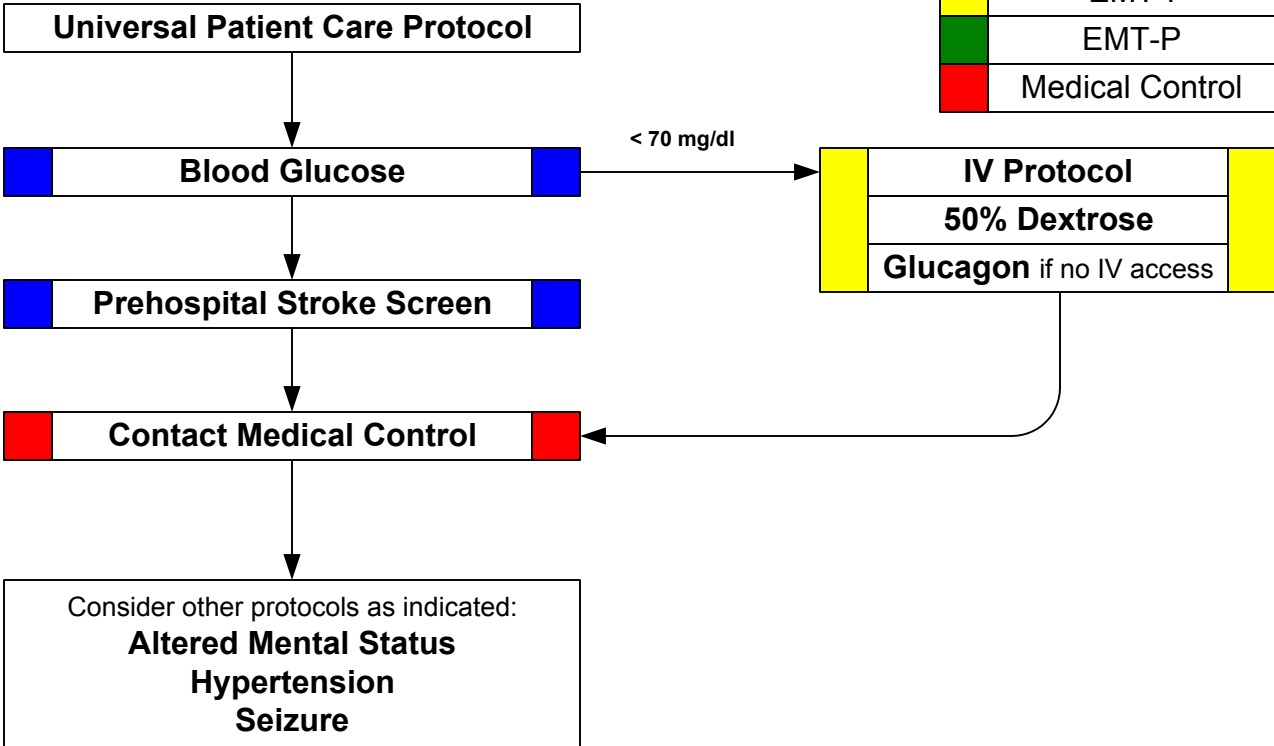


FORSYTH COUNTY EMS MEDICAL PROTOCOLS

Suspected Stroke

History: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Previous CVA, TIA's * Previous cardiac / vascular surgery * Associated diseases: diabetes, hypertension, CAD * Atrial fibrillation * Medications (blood thinners) * History of trauma 	Signs and Symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Altered mental status * Weakness / Paralysis * Blindness or other sensory loss * Aphasia / Dysarthria * Syncope * Vertigo / Dizziness * Vomiting * Headache * Seizures * Respiratory pattern change * Hypertension / hypotension 	Differential: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * See Altered Mental Status * TIA * Seizure * Hypoglycemia * Stroke <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thrombotic Embolic Hemorrhagic * Tumor * Trauma
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Legend	
	MR / EMT
	Expanded Scope EMT
	EMT-I
	EMT-P
	Medical Control



Pearls:

- * **Exam: Mental Status, HEENT, Heart, Lungs, Abdomen, Extremities, Neuro**
- * Thrombolytic Screening Checklist should be completed for any suspected stroke patient. With a duration of symptoms of less than 3 hours, scene times and transport times should be minimized.
- * Onset of symptoms is defined as the last witnessed time the patient was symptom free.
- * Elevated blood pressure is commonly present with stroke, consider treatment if diastolic > 120 mmHg.
- * Hypoglycemia can present as a localized neurologic deficit, especially in the elderly.
- * Be alert for airway problems (swallowing difficulty, vomiting)