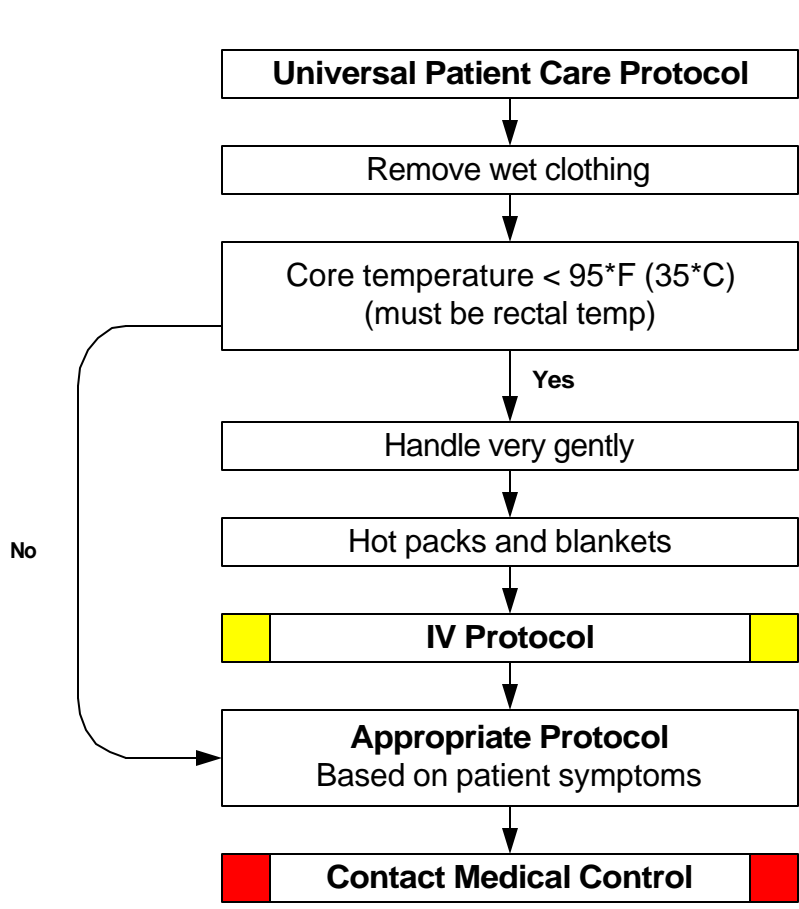


FORSYTH COUNTY EMS Trauma Protocols

Hypothermia

History: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Past medical history * Medications * Exposure to environment even in normal temperatures * Exposure to extreme cold * Extremes of age * Drug use: Alcohol, barbituates * Infections / Sepsis * Length of exposure / wetness 	Signs and Symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Cold, clammy * Shivering * Mental status changes * Extremity pain or sensory abnormality * Bradycardia * Hypotension or shock 	Differential: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Sepsis * Environmental exposure * Hypoglycemia * CNS dysfunction <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Stroke <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Head Injury <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Spinal cord injury
--	---	---



Legend		
	MR / EMT	
	Expanded Scope EMT	
	EMT-I	
	EMT-P	
	Medical Control	

Pearls:

- * Exam: Mental Status, Heart, Lungs, Abdomen, Extremities, Neuro
- * NO PATIENT IS DEAD UNTIL WARM AND DEAD.
- * Defined as core temperature < 95°F (35°C)
- * Shivering stops below 90°F (32°C).
- * Ventricular fibrillation likely < 88°F (31°C). Handling patients gently may prevent this. (rarely responds to defibrillation or medications until core temperature is >88°F.
- * Extremes of age are more susceptible.
- * Hypothermia may produce severe bradycardia.
- * Consider withholding CPR if patient has an organized rhythm. Discuss with **Medical Control**

Approved by: _____
R.L. Alson, M.D.
November, 2003