



ORANGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
BASE HOSPITAL TREATMENT GUIDELINES  
SUBSTANCE OVERDOSE / POISONING – ADULT / ADOLESCENT

#: BH-M-50  
Page: 1 of 4  
Original Date: 04/01/31  
Revised: 09/17/21

**BASE GUIDELINES**

1. Determine ALS Standing Order treatments/procedures rendered prior to base hospital contact. Use ALS standing order as guidelines for treatments/procedures not initiated prior to base hospital contact.
2. May continue IV NS beyond one liter if hypotension continues.
3. For systolic blood pressure less than 90 and NO signs of congestive heart failure (pulmonary edema) continue administering IV NS to attain an adequate blood pressure
4. For systolic blood pressure less than 90 and no response to initial 1000ml IV NS or signs of congestive heart failure then consider Push Dose Epinephrine:

**Mixing instructions:**

- Take epinephrine 1 mg of 0.1 mg/mL preparation (cardiac epinephrine) and waste 9 mL of epinephrine.
- Into that syringe, withdraw 9 mL of normal saline from the patient's IV bag. Shake well.
- Mixture now provides 10 mL of epinephrine at a 10 mcg/mL concentration.

**Push Dose Order:**

→ 0.5 mL (5 mcg) IV/IO, every 3 minutes, titrate to a SBP > 90.

**Note: Avoid use with suspected stimulant intoxication as it may cause additive stimulant effect resulting in myocardial infarction, stroke, or excited delirium.**

5. If seizure develops, follow BH-M-40 (Seizure – Adult/Adolescent) with repeated doses of midazolam as appropriate.
6. The Base Hospital can order additional doses of midazolam if symptoms of agitation, combativeness, and/or excited delirium continue to interfere with the SAFE transport of this patient.

**ALS STANDING ORDER**

1. Assist ventilation with BVM and suction airway as needed.
2. Pulse oximetry, if room air oxygen saturation less than 95% administer:
  - High-flow oxygen by mask or nasal cannula at 6 L/min flow rate as tolerated.
3. Blood glucose analysis, if blood glucose less than 60 (or of 60-80 and suspect hypoglycemia), administer one of:
  - Oral glucose preparation, if tolerated and airway reflexes are intact.
  - 10% Dextrose 250 mL IV
  - Glucagon 1.0 mg IM if unable to establish IV.

*Note: IO access may be used for dextrose administration when patient is unconscious with blood glucose <60, unable to establish IV and there is no response to IM glucagon.*
4. For blood pressure less than 90 systolic and lungs clear to auscultation:
  - Establish IV access
  - Normal Saline, infuse 250 mL IV, repeat up to maximum 1 liter to maintain adequate perfusion

Proceed with appropriate management as listed below:

**Suspected Narcotic Overdose:**

- If respiratory depression (respiratory rate less than or equal to 12 minute), give:
- Naloxone (Narcan®):
    - 0.8, 1 or 2 mg IN or IM, repeat every 3 minutes as needed to maintain respiratory rate.
    - 0.4-1 mg IV, every 3 minutes as needed to maintain respiratory rate.
    - 4mg/0.1ml preloaded nasal spray IN

Approved:

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Page: 2 of 4  
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**BASE GUIDELINES**

**Suspected Cyanide Toxicity (OR Inhalation of Smoke Generated by Plastics, Hydrocarbons):**

- **Hydroxocobalamin PR-130 (if available) 5 gm/200 mL solution IV/IO over 15 minutes**

**ALS STANDING ORDER**

**Suspected Stimulant Intoxication:**

- If agitated and a danger to self or others, sedate with:
  - **Midazolam 5 mg IV/IM/IN once.**
- If seizure activity:
  - *Turn to side, protect airway and suction when necessary.*
  - **Midazolam 10mg IM one time (preferred route).** Administer first before starting IV/IO.
  - *Midazolam 5mg IV/IN/IO if not able to deliver IM dose or if IV/IO already present, may repeat 5mg IV/IN/IO once for continued or recurrent seizure activity approximately 3 minutes after initial dose.*
  - Contact Base Hospital if seizure continues after second dose of midazolam.
- Monitor for respiratory adequacy via constant visual monitoring and pulse oximetry: If sudden hypoventilation, oxygen desaturation (per pulse oximetry), or apnea:
  - Assist ventilation with BVM (intubate as time permits)
- Monitor for hyperthermia; initiate cooling measures if appears to have hyperthermia.
- If signs of dehydration or poor perfusion and lungs clear to auscultation (no evidence CHF):
  - *Establish IV access and give 250 mL Normal Saline bolus, may repeat up to maximum 1 liter to maintain adequate perfusion.*
- If continuous nausea or vomiting, and not suspected or known to be pregnant:
  - *Ondansetron (Zofran®): ODT 8 mg (two 4 mg tablets) to dissolve orally on inside of cheek; OR, 4 mg IV may repeat 4 mg IV after approximately 3 minutes for continued nausea or vomiting.*

Approved:

*Carl Schultz, MD*

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BASE GUIDELINES

ALS STANDING ORDER

Suspected Organophosphate Poisoning (including Chemical Agents):

- **Atropine 2 mg IV, repeat once as needed, alternate route 2 mg IM, repeat once as needed.** (For Duo Dote® kit instructions and dosing during health emergencies or disaster refer to Guideline B-35).

→ For wheezes or bronchospasm:

- *Albuterol, Continuous nebulization of 6 mL (5 mg) concentration as tolerated.*
- *CPAP if available as tolerated and if not contraindicated (Reference PR-120).*

→ For seizure activity:

- *Midazolam as directed under Suspected Stimulant Intoxication*

Suspected Cyanide Toxicity (OR Inhalation of Smoke Generated by Plastics, Hydrocarbons):

- *High flow oxygen by mask*
- *Cardiac monitor and document rhythm*
- *Hydroxocobalamin PR-130 (if available) 5 gm/200 mL solution IV/IO over 15 minutes **\*\*This is a Base Hospital Order Only\*\****

→ For wheezes or bronchospasm:

- *Albuterol, Continuous nebulization of 6 mL (5 mg) concentration as tolerated.*
- *CPAP if available as tolerated and if not contraindicated (PR-120).*

→ For seizure activity:

- *Midazolam as directed under Suspected Stimulant Intoxication*

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ALS STANDING ORDER

Suspected Carbon Monoxide Toxicity

- High flow oxygen by mask
- Cardiac monitor and document rhythm.
- For wheezes or bronchospasm:
  - Albuterol, Continuous nebulization of 6 mL (5 mg) concentration as tolerated.
  - CPAP if available as tolerated and if not contraindicated (reference PR-120).
- For seizure activity:
  - Midazolam as directed under **Suspected Stimulant Intoxication**

Suspected Extrapyramidal Reaction:

- Diphenhydramine (Benadryl®) 50 mg IM or IV once.
5. ALS escort any of above patients to the nearest

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