

# Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

## EE-27 ADULT PATIENT ASSESSMENT AND INITIAL CARE

### Adult Patient Assessment

- Scene Size-Up
  - Take appropriate BSI precautions
  - Ensure scene safety
  - Determine mechanism of injury/nature of illness
  - Consider need for additional resources
  - Consider spinal precautions
    - Spinal immobilization as appropriate per protocol
- Primary Survey
  - Address any life threatening findings in the primary survey immediately, prior to continuing the assessment process.
  - Obtain general impression of patient
  - Determine level of consciousness
  - Determine chief complaint / apparent life threats
  - Assess the airway
    - Open with appropriate technique based on mechanism of injury
    - Provide adjunct as appropriate per protocol
  - Assess breathing
    - Provide oxygen as appropriate per protocol
    - Provide or assist with artificial ventilation as appropriate per protocol
  - Assess circulation
    - Check pulse
    - Assess skin color and condition
    - Control hemorrhage as indicated
  - Identify patient priority / make transport decision
- History Taking
  - Vital signs
    - Diagnostics per EMS scope of practice
  - Patient history
    - SAMPLE
  - History of present illness
    - OPQRST
- Secondary Assessment
  - Choose appropriate secondary assessment pathway
    - Rapid head-to-toe exam
    - Focused physical exam
  - Detailed Physical Exam
    - If time and patient condition allows
- Reassessment
  - Repeat primary survey
  - Repeat vital signs
  - Evaluate treatments and interventions

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### *ALS/ILS*

#### Initial Care

- Follow patient assessment guideline.
- Bring all necessary equipment to patient's side.
- Demonstrate professionalism and courtesy.
- Obtain oxygen saturation.
- Obtain blood glucose as necessary.
  - If history or patient presentation warrants.
- Oxygen therapy
  - Use appropriate delivery device and dose per patient condition.
- Cardiac monitor
  - 12 lead ECG when capable and applicable.
    - Any patient with non-traumatic complaint above the waist.
- Establish vascular access.
  - IV attempt X 2 unless requested to continue by medical control.
  - Consider IO access per protocol.
- Obtain blood samples.
  - If history or patient presentation warrants.
- Follow appropriate treatment protocol based on presentation and assessment.
- Contact Medical Control as soon as possible.

### *BLS*

#### Initial Care

- Follow patient assessment guideline
- Bring all necessary equipment to patient's side
- Demonstrate professionalism and courtesy
- Obtain oxygen saturation
- Obtain blood glucose as necessary
  - If history or patient presentation warrants
- Oxygen therapy
  - Use appropriate delivery device and dose per patient condition
- Follow appropriate treatment protocol based on presentation and assessment

### NOTE

- When allowing an EMT to be primary care provider on ALS/ILS ambulance,
  - The ALS/ILS crew member must complete an ALS/ILS assessment and determine the patient is appropriate for BLS care.
    - The higher level assessment must be documented on the patient care report (PCR).