



POISONING / OVERDOSE



Escambia County, Florida – 1st Responder Medical Protocol

This protocol is to be used for those patients suspected of exposure to toxic substances via any route of exposure (e.g. drug overdose, hazardous materials, etc).

A history of the events leading to the illness or injury should be obtained from the patient and bystanders to include:

1. What drugs, poisons, or other substance(s) was the patient exposed? Consider multiple substances, especially on overdoses.
2. Route of exposure?
3. When and how much?
4. Duration of symptoms?
5. Is patient depressed, suicidal? History of previous overdose? (If applicable).
6. Accidental? Nature of accident?
7. Duration of exposure (if applicable).
8. Collect all pill bottles, empty or full, and check for "suicide notes" (if applicable).

ASSESSMENT

- A. ABC's (See [General Supportive Care Protocol.](#))
- B. Determine substances ingested
 1. Obtain container(s) if possible
 2. Determine amount in container prior to current ingestion
 3. Were other substances also ingested?
 - o Alcohol?
 4. How poisoned (ingested, inhaled, injected, surface contamination)



Approved: 10/01/2011
Version: 3.1

Page 1 of 3

Approved by:


Charles Neal, D.O. Medical Director



POISONING / OVERDOSE



Escambia County, Florida – 1st Responder Medical Protocol

5. Has patient vomited?
 - o If so, when?
 6. Pre-existing medical problems
- C. Determine approximate time of ingestion
- D. Initial Assessment.

TREATMENT

- A. Assist ventilations if needed (as indicated in [General Supportive Care Protocol](#)).
- B. Treat for shock if indicated (See [Shock Protocol](#)).
1. Elevate feet
 2. Keep warm
- C. Vomiting:
1. Keep suction at ready in case patient vomits. Position patient on his/her left side if needed to prevent aspiration.
- D. If Seizing: (See [Seizure Protocol](#)).
1. Prevent injury.
- E. If inhaled poison:
1. Assure personal safety
 2. Remove patient to fresh air
 3. Administer 100% oxygen via non-rebreather mask at 15 LPM



Approved: 10/01/2011
Version: 3.1

Page 2 of 3

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Neal".
Charles Neal, D.O. Medical Director



POISONING / OVERDOSE



Escambia County, Florida – 1st Responder Medical Protocol

- F. If skin or eye contamination (See [Eye Injury Protocol](#)):
1. Assure personal safety
 2. Remove contaminated clothes
 3. Irrigate with water or normal saline
- G. If systolic blood pressure < 90, and/or if respirations < 10 and/or >29 possible narcotic overdose:
1. Administer 100% oxygen via non-rebreather mask at 15 LPM
 2. Assist ventilations as needed

REPORT

- A. Information as indicated in [General Supportive Care Protocol](#).
- B. Information regarding the substance(s) ingested and the approximate time of ingestion.



Approved: 10/01/2011
Version: 3.1

Page 3 of 3

Approved by:


Charles Neal, D.O. Medical Director