Contra Costa County Emergency Medical Services

Pediatric Altered Mental Status

History
- Past medical history
- Medications
- Recent illness
- Irritability
- Lethargy
- Changes in feeding/sleeping
- Diabetes
- Potential ingestion
- Trauma

Signs and Symptoms
- Decrease/change in mentation
- Decrease/increase in blood sugar
- Cool, diaphoretic skin
- Warm, dry skin; fruity breath; Kussmaul respirations; signs of dehydration

Differential
- Hypoxia
- CNS (stroke, tumor, seizure, infection)
- Thyroid
- Shock
- Diabetes
- Toxicological
- Acidosis or alkalosis
- Diabetes
- Environmental exposure
- Psychiatric disorder
- Sepsis

**Decision Tree**

**E**
- Airway TG, *if indicated*
- Blood glucose analysis
- Cardiac monitor
- 12-Lead ECG, *if indicated*
- Establish IV/IO

**P**

Blood glucose ≤ 60 or ≥ 350
- Yes
  - Exit to Diabetic TG
  - Exit to Hypotension/Shock TG

Signs of shock/poor perfusion
- Yes
  - Exit to Hypotension/Shock TG

Signs of OD/toxic exposure
- Yes
  - Exit to Overdose/Toxic Exposure TG

Signs of stroke or seizure
- Yes
  - Exit to Stroke or Seizure TG *as indicated*

Signs of hypo/hyperthermia
- Yes
  - Exit to Hypo/Hyperthermia TG *as indicated*

**E**

Arrhythmia/STEMI
- Yes
  - Exit to Appropriate Cardiac TG *as indicated*

No

Notify receiving facility. Contact Base Hospital for medical direction, as needed.