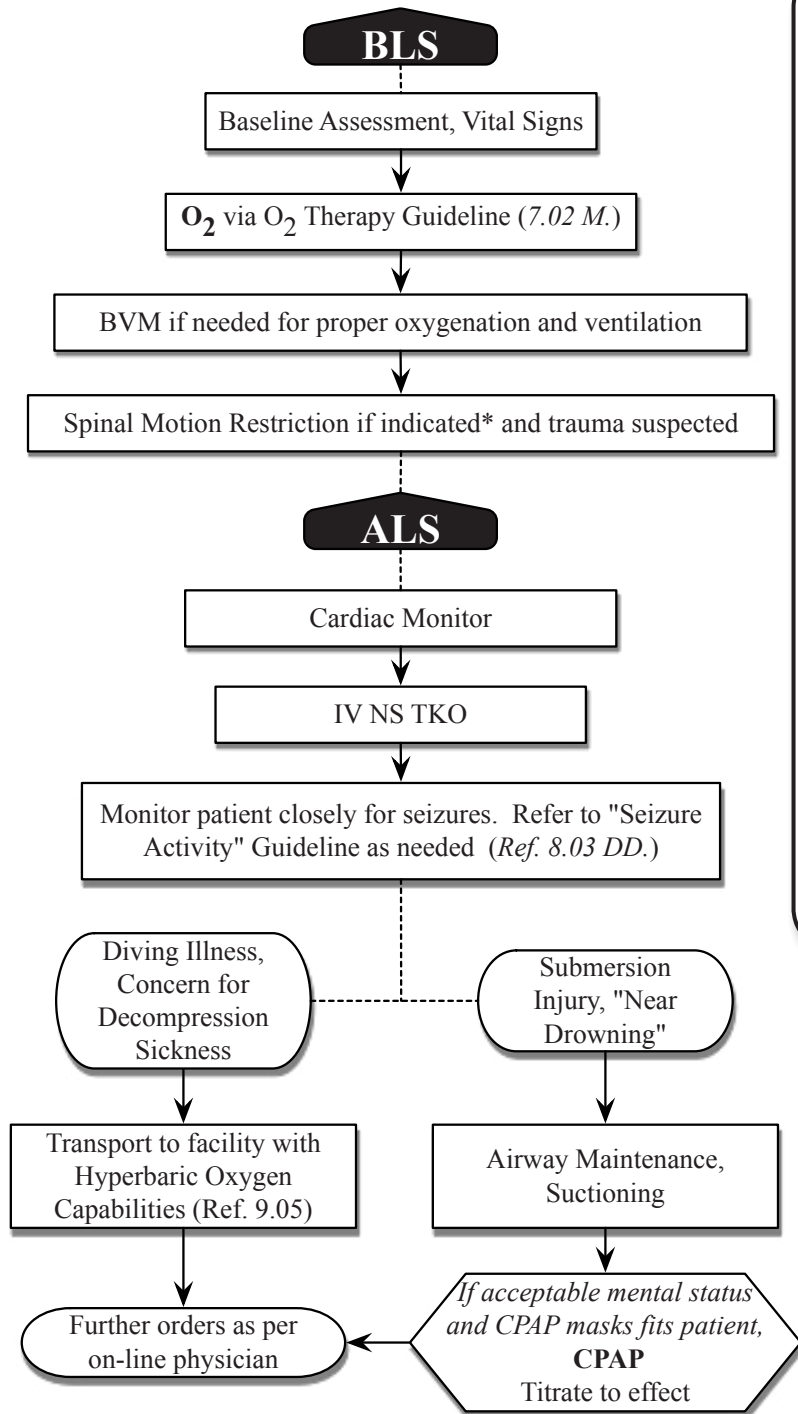


8.03 MM. Water Related Emergencies



Questions for Baseline Assessment

* Reference 8.04 J. "Spinal Motion Restriction" Guideline

- Has patient recently been diving (last 24-48 hours)?
- Any sudden depressurization?
- Police dive team member?
- Recent rescue or training?
- Recent return from diving vacation?
- During dive: How long underwater and how deep?

Presenting signs/symptoms with a diving illness are usually sudden, dramatic and very often life-threatening. The following may occur:

- coronary occlusion
- cardiac arrest
- stroke
- focal paralysis
- sensory disturbances
- blindness
- severe joint pain
- deafness
- vertigo
- dyspnea
- seizures
- aphasia

The incidence of cervical spine injury in drowning victims is low (0.009%). Unnecessary cervical spine immobilization can impede adequate opening of the airway. Only immobilize if circumstances suggest a spinal injury (dive into shallow water, etc.).