

# AG14 Drowning/Near Drowning (Submersion Injuries)

## Objectives:

- To assess and appropriately treat patients who have experienced a submersion injury

## General Information:

- Collect history
  - a) Trauma
  - b) Immersion time
  - c) Air and water temperature
  - d) Salt, brackish or fresh water
  - e) Substance abuse



## Warnings/Alerts:

- Transport all submersion incident patients; patients who have experienced a submersion incident are at high risk for developing life-threatening pulmonary edema within 72 hours of the incident
- Do not insert a nasogastric or orogastric tube without securing the airway with endotracheal intubation
- Consider alternate methods of c-spine immobilization if patient will not tolerate a supine position (ie KED, short board, manual control)

## OMD Notes:

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## References:

## Performance Indicators:

Time in Water  
Salt, Brackish or Fresh Water

Secondary Injury  
Transport to Appropriate Facility

Water Temperature

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