

	Department Name Address	ALS	Paramedic
		Revision #	
		Implementation Date	
Protocol	2.1.21 Altered Mental Status - Adult	Last Reviewed/Update Date	
Author / Owner		Medical Director	

Altered mental status may be caused by neurological trauma, overdose, poisoning, hypoglycemia, decreased oxygenation, or other illness. Treatment goals of the patient with an altered mental status in the pre-hospital environment include: ensuring responder safety, assessing for treatable causes, assuring adequate airway control and oxygenation, advanced life support when indicated, and safe timely transport to the appropriate care facility.

1. Baseline care standards.
2. Manage airway per protocol.
3. Assess level of consciousness using AVPU.
4. Administer oxygen 15L per minute via non-rebreather.
5. Obtain focused history and physical exam of environment for clues.
6. Obtain blood glucose level. Follow diabetic emergency protocol for treatment as needed.
7. Monitor cardiac rhythm. Treat dysrhythmias according to protocol.
8. Wear facial PPE for any signs of fever or rash with altered mental status.
9. Provide appropriate trauma care as necessary.
10. Establish IV of Normal Saline at TKO rate.
11. If signs of shock, give Normal Saline bolus 250 ml.
12. If opiate overdose is suspected, administer:
 - *Narcan 2 mg IV*. May repeat every 5 minutes.

Medical Director's Signature

Date

Disclaimer:

The protocols have been developed by the North Dakota Department of Health are meant to be used as general guidance for developing protocols for individual emergency medical services agencies. These sample protocols are not meant to be medical or legal advice; nor do they establish standards of care. Each emergency medical services agency must tailor protocols based on their specific needs or capabilities. Local medical directors must be consulted with and approve any protocol(s) prior to becoming operational in an emergency medical services agency. directors must be consulted with and approve any protocol(s) prior to becoming operational in an emergency medical services agency. The North Dakota Department of Health make no representation on the accuracy of information contained herein and accepts no liability for any loss or damage arising from any content error or omission.