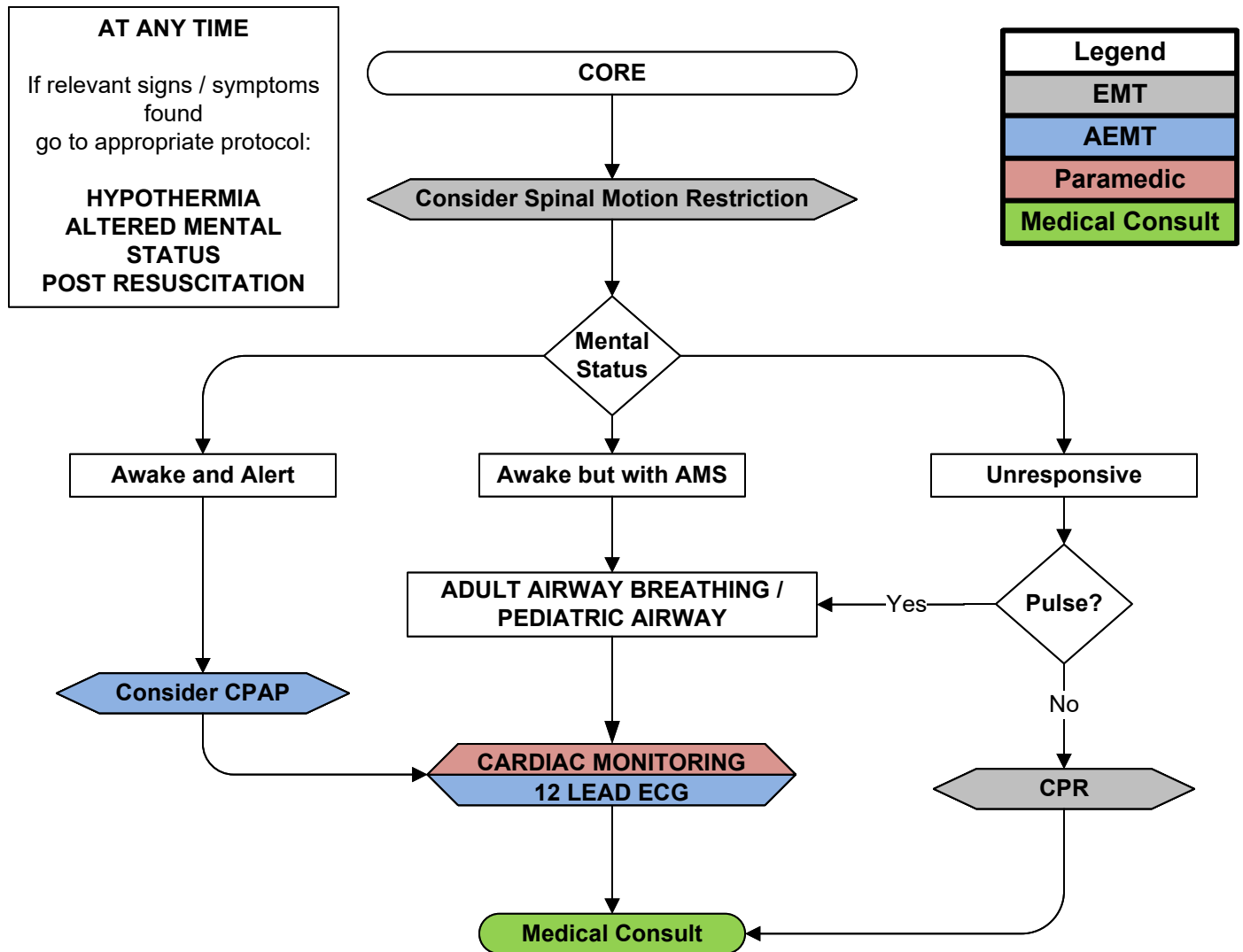


DROWNING

History: ○ Submersion in water regardless of depth ○ Possible history of trauma ○ Loss of consciousness ○ Bleeding ○ Duration of submersion ○ Temperature of water or possibility of hypothermia	Signs and Symptoms: ○ Unresponsive ○ Mental status changes ○ Decreased or absent vital signs ○ Foaming / Vomiting ○ Coughing, Wheezing, Rales, Rhonchi Stridor ○ Apnea	Differential: ○ Trauma ○ Pre-existing medical problem ○ Hypoglycemia ○ Cardiac Dysrhythmia ○ Pressure Injury (SCUBA diving) ○ Barotrauma ○ Decompression sickness ○ Post-immersion syndrome
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- **Pearls:**
- Ensure scene safety: Drowning is the leading cause of death among would-be rescuers.
- Allow appropriately trained and certified rescuers to remove victims from areas of danger.
- Have a high index of suspicion for possible spinal injuries.
- Hypothermia is often associated with drowning and submersion injuries.
- Cardiac arrest in drowning is caused by hypoxia, airway and ventilations are equally important to high-quality CPR.
- Post drowning patients who are awake and cooperative but with respiratory distress may benefit from CPAP.
- Air Med and CCT medics may use the EMV BiPAP in lieu of CPAP. See **BiPAP EMV procedure**.