1. Assess airway and initiate basic and/or advanced airway maneuvers prn (MCG 1302)

2. Administer Oxygen prn (MCG 1302)

3. Establish vascular access prn (MCG 1375)

4. For suspected opioid overdose with altered mental status and hypoventilation/apnea: Naloxone 2-4 mg IN (1mg per nostril or 4mg/0.1 mL IN if formulation available) or Naloxone 2mg IM or Naloxone 0.8-2mg IV push, maximum dose all routes 8 mg
   Titrate to adequate respiratory rate and tidal volume ❶

5. For patients whose medical condition improves after naloxone and who demonstrate decision-making capacity, offer “Leave Behind Naloxone” (MCG 1337)

6. If partial response to Naloxone and strong suspicion for opioid overdose: CONTACT BASE for additional doses of Naloxone

7. If available, consider capnography to monitor ventilations (MCG 1305) ❷

8. For respiratory distress, treat in conjunction with TP 1237, Respiratory Distress

9. Initiate cardiac monitoring prn (MCG 1308)
   For suspected cardiac ischemia, treat in conjunction with TP 1211, Cardiac Chest Pain
   For patients with dysrhythmias, treat in conjunction with TP 1212, Cardiac Dysrhythmia - Bradycardia or TP 1213, Cardiac Dysrhythmia - Tachycardia

10. Evaluate for other causes of altered level of consciousness (MCG 1320)

11. Assess for signs of trauma
   If traumatic injury suspected, treat in conjunction with TP 1244, Traumatic Injury

12. Check blood glucose
   If < 60mg/dL or > 200mg/dL, treat in conjunction with TP 1203, Diabetic Emergencies

13. For alcohol intoxication, document Provider Impression – Alcohol Intoxication
   For other intoxications, including overdose or ill effects of prescription medications and illicit substances, document Provider Impression – Overdose/Poisoning/Ingestion

14. For poor perfusion:
   Normal Saline 1L IV rapid infusion
   Reassess after each 250 mL increment for evidence of volume overload (pulmonary edema); stop infusion if pulmonary edema develops

   For persistent poor perfusion, treat in conjunction with TP 1207, Shock/Hypotension

15. CONTACT BASE to discuss antidote administration
Calcium channel blocker overdose: Calcium chloride 1g (10mL) IV push over 60 seconds
Tricyclic overdose: Sodium bicarbonate 50mEq (50mL) IV push over 60 seconds

16. Assess for co-ingestion of other substances

17. Consider contacting the Poison Control Center (1-800-222-1222) in conjunction with Base for assistance with identification and management of unknown medications/toxins (Ref. 805)

18. Bring containers of ingested substances to the Emergency Department with patient

19. If patient refuses recommended treatment or transport, CONTACT BASE
Patient must demonstrate decision making capacity (Ref. 834)
If EMS personnel or Base Hospital determines it is necessary to transport the patient against their will, contact law enforcement for assistance
The first priority for apneic patients after narcotic overdose is to begin positive pressure ventilation. Once ventilations are established, naloxone should be administered with the goal of restoring spontaneous ventilations. Vascular access should not take priority over initial treatment with Naloxone (IN or IM) for patients with suspected opiate overdose. Patients who are awake and alert with normal respirations after naloxone therapy may not require IV access or additional doses of naloxone.

Persistently high or increasing end-tidal CO₂ (EtCO₂) readings above normal with low respiratory rate indicate respiratory failure (bradypneic hypoventilation); whereas low EtCO₂ readings with a low respiratory rate may also represent respiratory failure due to low tidal volumes (hypopneic hypoventilation); consider the need for assisted ventilation in these cases.

Signs of calcium channel overdose include bradycardia along with hypotension and hypoglycemia. Consider when the patient is taking or has access to a calcium channel blocker medication. Ask about potential exposures including medications in the home.

ECG findings consistent with tricyclic overdose include wide QRS (>0.12mm) and terminal R in aVR. Consider when the patient is taking or has access to a tricyclic medication. Ask about potential exposures including medications in the home.