Emergency Care in the School Setting

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Source: School Nurse Emergency Medical Services for Children

Assessment and Triage

Considerations

- Health and physical assessment can be simultaneous
- Assessment process is stopped to initiate life-saving measures
- Cultural and other factors

Initial Assessment

- Scene assessment
- "Across-the-room assessment
- Brief physical assessment
- Brief health history

Brief Physical Assessment

- Airway
- Breathing
- Circulation
- Disability
- Expose/ examine
- Fahrenheit
- Get vital signs
- Head-to-toe assessment
- Isolate

Brief Health History CIAMPEDS

- Chief complaint
- Immunizations
- Allergies
- Medications
- Past health history
- Events surrounding
- Diet
- Symptoms associated with current problem

Interventions

- Triage and transport
- Evaluation and Follow-up
- Prevention

Triage Considerations

- Initial triage category can change
- “Gut reaction” should be trusted
- Over triage is acceptable
- RN must conduct triage
- Reassessment is necessary

Triage Categories

- Emergent
- Urgent
- Non-urgent

Interventions

- Triage process
- Triage and transport
- Outcome/disposition
- Prevention

Trauma

Mechanism of Injury

- Kinetic
- Thermal
- Electrical
- Chemical
- Radiation
- Lack of oxygen
- Lack of thermoregulation

Kinetic Energy Forces

- Blunt
- Crush
- Accelerate/decelerate
- Penetrating

Injury from Falls

- Fall more than 10 ft. or 3 times person's height
- Yielding vs. non-yielding surface
- Body area striking first

Initial Assessment of the Injured Person

- Primary assessment
- Secondary assessment
- Triage and transport

Primary assessment

- Airway
- Cervical spine stabilization
- Breathing
- Circulation
- Neurologic
- Expose

Neurologic Assessment

- Level of consciousness
- AVPU
  - Awake/alert
  - Verbal response
  - Pain response
  - Unresponsive

Expose

- Remove clothing to observe the chest
- Observe for chest for bruises, penetrations, and symmetry
- Auscultate breath sounds
- Auscultate heart sounds

Secondary Assessment

- Fahrenheit (keep person warm)
- Get vital signs
- Head-to-toe assessment
- Inspect the back

Head-to-Toe Assessment

- Head
- Neck
- Chest
- Abdomen
- Pelvis
- Extremities
- Inspect the back

History

- Mechanism of injury
- AMPLE
  - Allergies
  - Medications
  - Past history
  - Last meal
  - Events leading to injury

Triage and Transport

- Triage decisions
  - Emergent
  - Urgent
  - Non-urgent

Documentation

- School health record
- EMS providers
- Accident report

Trauma Emergencies

- Head injuries
- Spinal cord injuries
- Chest injuries
- Amputations

Follow-up

- Note changes in student's school routines
- Update school health record
- Note dangerous areas in school

Respiratory Emergencies

- Causes
- Anatomic and physiologic differences
- Predisposing conditions
- Equipment needs
- Assessment
- Plan and intervention
- Triage and transport

Airway Emergencies

- Upper airway emergencies
- Lower airway emergencies
- Special needs children
- Prevention

Shock

- Types
- Assessment
- Plan and interventions
- Special needs students
- Prevention

Neurologic Emergencies

- Assessment
- Triage and transport
- Special needs students
- Altered levels of consciousness

Neurologic Emergencies

- Syncope
- Seizures
- CSF/VP shunt dysfunction
- Headache
- Head and spinal cord trauma
- Interventions

Eye Emergencies

- Special considerations
- Assessment
  - Current history
  - Focused

Interventions

- Perforation/rupture of globe
- Impaled object
- Blunt trauma
- Direct trauma
- Chemical, heat, and light burns
- Corneal abrasions
- Documentation

Prevention

- Education
- Protective eyewear
- Investigate injuries

Ear, Nose, and Throat Emergencies

- Special considerations

Interventions in Ear Injuries

- Lacerations/avulsions
- Hematomas
- Abrasions
- Foreign bodies
- Extreme temperatures

Interventions in Nose Injuries

- Nasal fractures
- Epistaxis
- Foreign bodies

Emergencies of the Throat

- Peritonsillar abscess/cellulitis
- Epiglotitis - emergent
- Tonsillitis
- Strep infections
- Prevention

Dental Emergencies

- Assessment
- Soft tissue trauma
- Dental trauma
- Bony fractures
- Oral pain

Environmental Emergencies

- Bites and stings
- Burns
- Hyper- and hypothermia
- Toxicologic emergencies
- Water emergencies

Abdominal/genitourinary Emergencies

- Special considerations
- Types of abdominal pain

PQRST History

- P=Problem (Provoke or Palliative)
- Q=Quality
- R=Radiate
- S=Severity (Symptoms and Signs_
- T=Timing

Focused Assessment

- Inspection
- Auscultation
- Palpation
- Percussion

Selected Emergencies

- Appendicitis
- Ectopic pregnancy
- Recurrent abdominal pain (RAP)
- Gastroenteritis
- Constipation
- Obstetrical

Musculoskeletal Emergencies

- Types of injuries
  - Contusions
  - Sprains
  - Strains
  - Dislocation
  - Fracture
  - Epiphyseal trauma

Assessment

- ROM
- Inspection/palpation
  - Five "P' s"
    - Pain
    - Pulse
    - Pallor
    - Paresthesia
    - Paralysis

Injuries

- Upper extremity
- Lower extremity

Intervention

- R=rest/immobilization
- I=ice
- C=compression
- E=elevation
- S=support
- Splinting
- Triage and transport

Medical Emergencies

- Anaphylaxis
- Diabetes mellitus
- Immunocompromised
- Organ transplant recipients
- Sickle cell anemia