

Care Pathway for children with reduced level of consciousness

Name
Address

Date of Birth
Hospital number

Time / Date
Signature
Printed name

Initial ASSESSMENT: Neurology

| | At Triage Time =..... | 1 st assessment Time =..... | 2 nd assessment Time =..... |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---|---|
| GCS: Eyes = (1-4) | | | |
| Verbal = (1-5) | | | |
| Motor = (1-6) | | | |
| Total = (3-15) | | | |

Capillary glucose result = Time taken =
 (<2.6 mmol/l = hypoglycaemia → ensure all investigations taken then treat;
 2.6-3.5 mmol/l = borderline hypoglycaemia → consider investigating and treating)

Pupils: Equal Yes / No
 Reactive Yes / No

Posture: Normal / Decorticate / Decerebrate (extensor) / Completely flaccid

Doll's eye response (if no neck trauma): Normal (eyes fix on point on ceiling) /
 Abnormal (eyes move with head)

Raised intracranial pressure likely: Yes / No If "Yes": Senior helped called Yes / No
 Anaesthetist called Yes / No
 PICU called Yes / No

| CORE INVESTIGATIONS: | Tick box if performed | Result | Action required |
|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Capillary glucose | <input type="checkbox"/> | = | Yes / No |
| Bedside urinalysis | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ketones = | Yes / No |
| | | Glucose = | |
| | | Leucocytes = | |
| | | Others = | |
| Blood gas (art./ cap./ venous) | <input type="checkbox"/> | pH = | Yes / No |
| | | PCO ₂ = | |
| | | PO ₂ = | |
| | | BE / HCO ₃ ⁻ = | |
| | | Others (eg lactate) = | |
| Full blood count | <input type="checkbox"/> | Hb = | Yes / No |
| | | Plts = | |
| | | WCC / Neutrophils = | |
| U+Es | <input type="checkbox"/> | Na = | Yes / No |
| | | K = | |
| | | Cr = | |
| | | Urea = | |
| LFTs | <input type="checkbox"/> | Albumin / Protein = | Yes / No |
| | | AST / ALT = | |
| | | ALP = | |
| Laboratory Glucose | <input type="checkbox"/> | = | Yes / No |
| Plasma ammonia | <input type="checkbox"/> | = | Yes / No |
| Blood culture | <input type="checkbox"/> | = | Yes / No |
| Saved plasma sample | <input type="checkbox"/> (Lithium heparin bottle) | | |
| Saved serum sample | <input type="checkbox"/> (Plain bottle) | | |
| Saved urine sample | <input type="checkbox"/> (Plain sample bottle) | | |

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HISTORY

| | |
|---|----------|
| Any history / risk of drug ingestion? | Yes / No |
| Any previous infant deaths in the family? | Yes / No |
| Any exposure to herpes / cold sores? | Yes / No |
| Any recent foreign travel? | Yes / No |

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EXAMINATION (use continuation sheet if more space required)

Any concern / evidence of NAI? Yes / No

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PROBLEMS / DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS

Check for all of the following: (Tick if possible, n.b. *more than one* category can be ticked)

- Shock
- Sepsis
- Evidence of trauma
- Hyperglycaemic (>11mmol/l)
- Hypoglycaemic (<2.6mmol/l)
- Raised plasma ammonia (>200micromol/l)
- Ketoacidosis without hyperglycaemia
- Bacterial meningitis
- Herpes simplex encephalitis
- Intracranial abscess
- Tuberculous meningitis
- Clinically raised intracranial pressure
- Ongoing convulsion
- Recovering from previous convulsion
- Hypertension
- Cause unknown after test results

I.V. Dexamethasone given Yes / No

Other suspected diagnoses

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Further Investigations:

- All core investigations sent (all cases of reduced conscious level except trauma / post-convulsive state)
- Other investigations required:
 - Infection screen (if sepsis)
 - *Lumbar puncture (if sepsis / meningitis / HSE/ cause unknown)
 - Cranial imaging (if raised ICP / intracranial abscess / HSE / cause unknown)
 - Coagulation studies (if sepsis / raised plasma ammonia)
 - Plasma Ca / Mg (if prolonged convulsion and aged <1 year)
 - EEG (if HSE / cause unknown)
 - *Further metabolic tests (if hypoglycaemia / hyperammonaemia / ketoacidosis without hyperglycaemia / cause unknown)

Other tests requests

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*See practice guidelines for contraindications to performing a lumbar puncture in the acute situation

*See practice guidelines for exact tests to request to diagnose metabolic illnesses

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TREATMENT PLAN

- Senior help called Contact details
- PICU called Contact details
- Paediatric neurologist called Contact details
- Paediatric neurosurgeon called Contact details
- Metabolic medicine consultant called Contact details