

n-5 SYNCOPE/NEAR SYNCOPE

PRIORITIES:

- ABCs
- Assess level of consciousness
- Evaluation of:
 - Cardiac rhythm, precipitating factors
 - Associated symptoms, medical history/medications
 - Progression of neurological deficits
 - Altered mental status
- Assure an advanced life support response

SYNCOPE/NEAR SYNCOPE

Episode of brief loss of consciousness, dizziness. Often postural, following defecation or early pregnancy. May have cardiac history.

1. Ensure a patent airway (suction as necessary);
2. Be prepared to support ventilation with appropriate airway adjuncts;
3. OXYGEN THERAPY - Begin oxygen at 6 liters/ minute by nasal cannula or 10 liters/minute by mask. If there is a history of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), observe for respiratory depression and support respirations as needed. **DO NOT** withhold oxygen from a patient in cardiorespiratory distress because of a history of COPD.
4. Monitor and record vital signs frequently;
5. Assist advanced life support personnel with patient packaging and movement to ambulance.