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| <b>Respiratory Distress/Failure/ Arrest</b>                             | BiPAP, CPAP or Intubation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Status Epilepticus</b>                                               | Continuous seizure or repeated seizures without returning to an alert baseline of over 20 minutes. <b>*Always Critical Care</b>                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Sepsis (septic shock)—Not Urosepsis</b>                              | BP < than 80 <b>*Always Critical Care</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Shock</b>                                                            | BP < than 80 <b>*Always Critical Care</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Stroke, Hemorrhagic</b>                                              | <b>Always Critical Care</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Stroke, Thrombotic</b>                                               | TPA considered or given/ Transfer/ Intubation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Suicide attempt<br/>Drug/Alcohol overdose<br/>*See drug overdose</b> | <b>ONE of more of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abnormal VS (medically ill)</li> <li>• Serious attempt to harm (near hanging, neck wounds, gsw etc.)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                 |
| <b>*Thyrototoxicosis/Thyroid Storm</b>                                  | Treated with IV B-blockers (Propranolol)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Trauma</b>                                                           | Altered consciousness, life or limb, threatened or transfer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Urosepsis</b>                                                        | <b>Need at least TWO of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple fluid bolus</li> <li>• 2 or more IV antibiotics</li> <li>• Altered mental status (i.e. confused)</li> <li>• Top BP &lt;80</li> <li>• HR &gt; than 120</li> <li>• Temp &gt; than 105 or &lt; than 91.4</li> </ul> |
| <b>Ventricular Fibrillation</b>                                         | <b>Always Critical Care</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Ventricular Tachycardia</b>                                          | Requiring IV meds, Cardioversion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Heart Block</b>                                | <b>Always Critical Care</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

## Signs of Aggressive Management

- IV anti-arrhythmics: Adenosine, Atropine, Cardizem (Diltiazem), Inderal, lidocaine, Magnesium and Sulphate
- Pressors: Dopamine, Epinephrine and Dobutamine
- Vasodilators: Nitro Drip, Nipride and Cardene
- Others: Aminophylline, Glucagon, Sodium Bicarb, Dobutamine, Propofol and Diprivan
- Anti-Coagulants: Heparin, Lovenox, Integrilin and Fragmin
- Platelet Transfusion
- Fresh Frozen Plasma
- Prothrombin Complex Concentrate (PCC)

## Procedures that Highly Suggest Critical Care

- Tube Thoracostomy
- Transfer out via helicopter
- Defibrillation
- Cardioversion
- Intubation /CPR
- Open Cardiac Massage
- BiPAP Ventilation
- Surgical Airway
- TNK, TPA or Streptokinase Infusion
- Lumbar puncture (i.e. Meningitis, Encephalitis)
- Transfer to a higher level of care
- Central line or I.O. (Excludes routine transfers to Pediatrics, OBS or Psychiatric)
- Ewald or Gastric Lavage

## Critical Care Descriptors Descriptors That Highly Suggest Critical Care

The list below will help serve as a guideline for determining critical care charts and is not all inclusive.

| Conditions                                                                                                                | Key Indicators                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| <b>AAA</b><br>(Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm)                                                                                 | Requiring emergency surgery <b>OR</b> patient is admitted *AAA is the reason for admission                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Acidosis</b> *Any Age                                                                                                  | PH < 7.2 (ABG or Venous)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>MI</b> (Myocardial Infarction)                                                                                         | <b>ONE of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (STEMI) ST segment elevation</li> <li>• NSTEMI (non ST segment elevation)</li> <li>• Elevated Troponin (not chronic)</li> <li>• Emergent to cath lab/TPA</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Anaphylactic Shock</b><br>(Allergic Reaction)                                                                          | Hypotensive requiring fluid boluses <b>OR</b> IM (Not Sub Q)/IV Epinephrine                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Anemia</b> (adult) *Hgb<8                                                                                              | <b>ONE or more of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abnormal Vitals: Heart rate &gt;120, top BP &lt;80</li> <li>• Syncope</li> <li>• Chest pain</li> <li>• Packed RBC or Platelet transfusion</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Angina</b> (Unstable)                                                                                                  | IV Nitro Drip/ IV Dopamine/ <b>OR</b> other continuous IV medication infusion being adjusted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Aortic Dissection</b>                                                                                                  | Requiring immediate surgery, transfer or IV BP meds to control BP.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Appendicitis</b>                                                                                                       | Patient is septic (see sepsis)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Arterial Occlusion</b>                                                                                                 | Requiring immediate surgery, transfer or infusion of blood thinners.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Atrial Fibrillation with tachycardia lasting more than 60 minutes</b><br><b>OR A Fib, new onset, Vent rate &gt;150</b> | <b>ONE or more of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuous IV medications</li> <li>• Ventricular rate &gt;150 with treatment</li> <li>• Chest pain, Dyspnea or Lightheadedness</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Asthma</b> (Status Asthmaticus)                                                                                        | <b>ONE or more of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bi Pap</li> <li>• &gt;3 respiratory treatments (i.e. DuoNeb, Albuterol, Ventalin, Proventil) and still in distress.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>*Bradycardia</b> (symptomatic)                                                                                         | <b>ONE or more of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pulse &lt; 40 or Pacer or Atropine;</li> <li>• Consult w/ cardiology for transvenous pacer</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Cardiac Arrest</b>                                                                                                     | CPR/ multiple meds *(Need 30 minutes of CC not counting the CPR procedure)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Cardiac Tamponade</b>                                                                                                  | Hypotension <b>OR</b> IV fluid bolus <b>OR</b> Pericardiocentesis                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Cervical Spine Fracture</b>                                                                                            | Requiring Admission, Transfer or has a Neurologic deficit (i.e. weakness, parathesia)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Comatose/Unconscious or Acute</b><br>*Except for Hypoglycemia                                                          | <b>Always Critical Care</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Chest Pain</b><br>(Unstable Angina or Acute Coronary Syndrome)                                                         | <b>TWO or more of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nitro drip, (being adjusted)</li> <li>• Transfer to cardiac center</li> <li>• TPA or Integrilin administered</li> <li>• New changes on EKG (i.e. ischemia, injury)</li> <li>• CT scan (look for other causes of pain)</li> <li>• Cath lab</li> <li>• Pulmonary edema</li> <li>• Positive Troponin</li> </ul> |
| <b>CHF severe</b>                                                                                                         | BiPAP (elevated pCo2 > than 60) (Respiratory Acidosis) <b>OR</b><br><b>One of the Following:</b> IV Nitroprusside, nitro, Doputamine or Dopamine                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Compartment Syndrome</b>                                                                                               | <b>Sent to the OR or fasciotomy in the ED.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

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| <b>COPD – severe exacerbation</b>                                          | <b>ONE or more of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuous nebulizers and still in distress</li> <li>• Bi Pap</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• O2 sats &lt;80%, on usual O2</li> <li>• Respirations &gt;32</li> <li>• Ph 7.2 or lower (CO2 retention)</li> </ul>                                                  |
| <b>*Croup (Adult or Pediatric)</b>                                         | Multiple Racemic Epinephrine nebs with documentation of airway distress after the 1st nebulizer treatment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Dehydration</b>                                                         | With BP < than 80 systolic (treated with more than 1 liter of NS)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>DKA (Diabetic Ketoacidosis)</b><br><b>*all ages</b>                     | (pH < than 7.20)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Drug Overdose/Poisoning:</b>                                            | <b>Management for each (specific) type of Drug Overdose/Poisoning:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>*Tylenol (Acetaminophen)</b>                                            | Use of IV/PO Mucomyst (NAC)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>*Digoxin</b>                                                            | Use of IV Digibind                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>*Ethylene Glycol (Anti-Freeze)</b>                                      | Use of Formeprizole (Antizol)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>*Salicylate</b>                                                         | Treated with Emergent Dialysis                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>*Snake Bite</b>                                                         | Use of IV Crofab                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Dysrhythmia</b>                                                         | <b>ONE or more of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ventricular Tachycardia</li> <li>• Ventricular fibrillation</li> <li>• 3rd Degree Heart Block</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pacemaker (inserted in ED)</li> <li>• Use of Atropine/Lidocaine/Amiodarone IV, Procainamide IV</li> <li>• Synchronized cardioversion</li> </ul>                    |
| <b>Ectopic pregnancy(Rupture)</b>                                          | Requiring Admission <b>OR</b> Transfer <b>OR</b> Blood transfusion in ED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Epidural abscess</b>                                                    | <b>Always Critical Care</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Epiglottitis</b>                                                        | <b>Always Critical Care</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Esophageal perforation</b>                                              | <b>Always Critical Care</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>FB Airway Obstruction</b>                                               | Partial or Complete                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Fractures (OPEN) due to trauma</b>                                      | Femur, tibia, pelvis or humerus                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>GI Bleed (acute)</b>                                                    | <b>ONE or more of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient is hypotensive (<b>systolic BP &lt;80</b>)</li> <li>• GI consult for scope in ED or ICU that day</li> <li>• Blood transfusion, plasma or platelet transfusion &amp; Fluid bolus</li> <li>• Emergency surgery scheduled w/in next 12 hrs or EGD or colonoscopy</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pressors</li> <li>• Dobutamine</li> <li>• Hemoglobin [HGB] &lt; than 8</li> <li>• Abnormal vital signs (pulse &gt; 120)</li> <li>• Mental status change</li> </ul> |
| <b>Glasgow Coma Scale 13 or below</b>                                      | <b>Always Critical Care</b> (except Hypoglycemia)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Head Injury</b>                                                         | Glasgow Coma Scale 13 or below                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Hemorrhage</b> intercerebral, subdural, subarachnoid, epidural/subdural | <b>Always Critical Care</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Hemothorax</b>                                                          | Chest tube placement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Hypercalcemia</b>                                                       | Requiring Admission                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Hypertensive Emergency</b>                                              | <b>Systolic</b> (top) blood pressure >210 <b>OR</b> <b>Diastolic</b> (bottom) blood pressure >120<br><br><b>With one of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signs or symptoms of end organ involvement (CVA, acute renal failure, non-STEMI)</li> <li>• Attempted control w IVP Meds</li> <li>• Nitro, Nipride, Cardene Drip</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental Status change</li> <li>• CHF</li> <li>• Chest pain</li> <li>• Pulmonary Edema</li> <li>• Pre-eclampsia</li> </ul>                                           |

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| <b>Hypokalemia (low potassium)</b>           | Potassium <2.0 WITH IV potassium ordered in ED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Hypoglycemia</b>                          | <b>ONE or more of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frequent finger sticks (3 or more) and intervention</li> <li>• D50: 3 or more doses</li> </ul>                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Hypothermia</b>                           | Temperature < than 91.4 F or 33 C                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Hypotension (adult only)</b>              | <b>ONE or more of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blood pressure &lt; than 80</li> <li>• Multiple Fluid bolus 3 or greater</li> </ul>                                                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dopamine or other pressors</li> <li>• Central line</li> <li>• Respiration &gt; than 32</li> </ul>                                                                      |
| <b>Hypoxia/Hypoxemia</b>                     | O2 SAT < 80% on usual O2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Hyperkalemia</b>                          | Key indicators are treated with (calcium, bicarb and/or insulin and D50W)                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Hyponatremia</b>                          | Requiring admission or transfer or seizure                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Meningitis (Bacterial)</b>                | <b>Always Critical Care</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Meningitis, (Viral)</b>                   | <b>With Encephalopathy</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Mesenteric Ischemia</b>                   | <b>Always Critical Care</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>MVA</b>                                   | <b>ONE or more of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Altered mental status (Glasgow Coma Scale &lt;13)</li> <li>• Abnormal vital signs: (O2 &lt;85, HR &gt;120, systolic BP &lt;80)</li> </ul>                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                                              | <b>AND any one of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transfer to trauma center</li> <li>• Spine, pelvis or femur fracture</li> <li>• Multiple fluid bolus</li> <li>• Flail chest</li> <li>• Blood transfusion</li> <li>• Pneumothorax chest tube</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Platelet transfusion</li> <li>• Intracranial bleed</li> <li>• Central line</li> <li>• Intubation</li> <li>• Immediately to OR</li> <li>• Solid organ injury</li> </ul> |
| <b>*Myxedema Coma</b>                        | Treated with IV Thyroxine (Levothyroxine)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>*Neonatal Fever</b>                       | 30 days or younger w/ Fever >100 & Full Septic Workup including (LP)                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>*Ovarian/Testicular Torsion</b>           | <b>Always Critical Care</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Perforated Viscus</b>                     | <b>Always Critical Care</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Pneumonia (Adult)</b>                     | <b>ONE or more of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• O2 sats &lt; than 80% on usual O2</li> <li>• Pulse &gt; than 120 (in adult)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BP (top) &lt;80</li> <li>• Respiration &gt; than 32 (adult)</li> </ul>                                                                                                 |
| <b>*Pneumonia (Pediatrics)</b>               | <b>ONE or more of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• O2 sats &lt; than 80% on usual O2</li> <li>• Pulse &gt; than 150</li> </ul>                                                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BP (top) &lt;60</li> <li>• Respiration &gt; than 40</li> </ul>                                                                                                         |
| <b>Pneumothorax</b>                          | <b>Requiring urgent chest tube inserted by ED physician</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Pre-eclampsia/ eclampsia</b>              | <b>Patient Admitted</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Pulmonary Edema</b>                       | When treated with IV NTG , BIPAP or Intubation <b>*Always Critical Care</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Pulmonary Emboli</b>                      | Treated with Heparin or Lovenox                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>RPA (Retropharyngeal abscess)</b>         | <b>Always Critical Care</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Rapid heart Rate</b><br>(Vent rate > 150) | IV fluids/ Adenosine/ continuous meds                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Renal Failure (Renal Insufficiency)</b>   | <b>ONE or more of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediate dialysis needed today</li> <li>• Pulmonary Edema</li> <li>• Abnormal vital signs: HR &gt;120, BP &lt;80</li> </ul>                                                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bicarb, Calcium or IV Insulin/D50W</li> <li>• EKG changes [Peaked T Waves or widened QRS]</li> </ul>                                                                   |