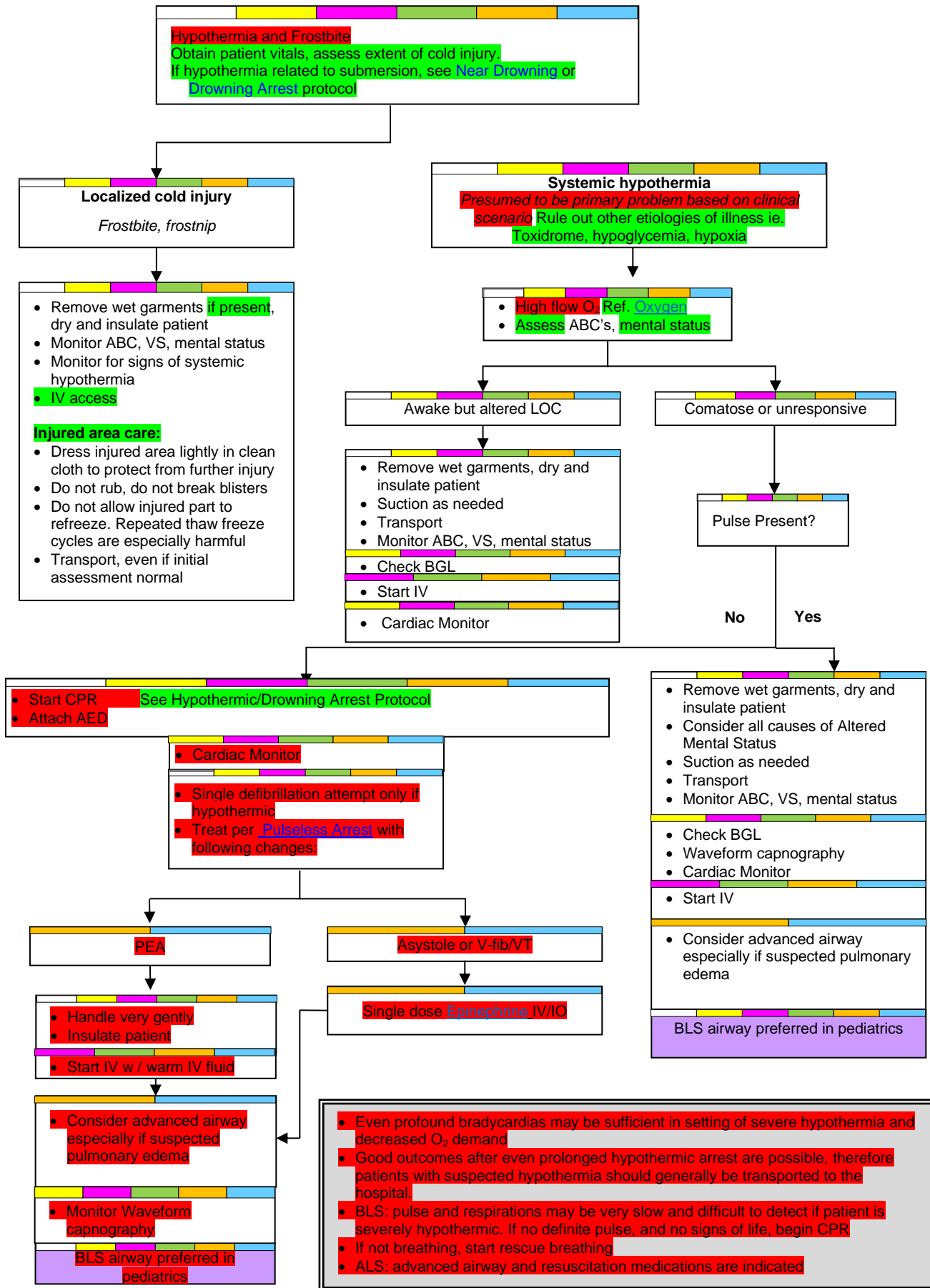


5010 HYPOTHERMIA AND FROSTBITE

EMR	EMT	EMT-IV	AEMT	INTERMEDIATE	PARAMEDIC
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5010 HYPOTHERMIA AND FROSTBITE

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Prehospital Frostbite Considerations:

- Frostbite is a time dependent injury, initial appropriate treatment can be difference between limb salvage and loss
- Important to distinguish frostnip from frostbite.
 - Frostnip is completely reversible and is characterized by pallor, numbness and pain on re-warming.
 - Frostbite is defined as freezing of the tissues and is described in degrees which are:

1st degree: Hyperemia with significant edema but is nonblistered.

2nd degree: Partial skin thickness necrosis and large clear blisters which should be kept intact.

3rd degree: Full thickness and possible subcutaneous tissue loss. This type forms large hemorrhagic blisters and/or dark eschar.

4th degree: Full-thickness skin necrosis involving bone, tendon or muscle.

•Unthawed frostbite may appear either pale/blanched or mottled. Movement of the joints may be severely limited and the extremity may appear cold, hard and/or white and the patient may describe or appear clumsy. Sensation is often lost or significantly decreased.