Pediatric – Submersion Injury

ABCDE Assessment

BLS

Establish/Maintain Airway
Consider C-Spine Immobilization
High Flow Oxygen
Assisted Ventilation as needed
Start CPR if no pulse
Remove Wet Clothing
Keep Warm
Consider Dextrose Check

Transport

ALS

Follow BLS Standards

Consider Endotracheal Intubation if effort to ventilate/oxygenate via BVM is inadequate
Use positive end-expiratory pressure (5cm H_2O) if available

Continue CPR if no pulse present (5 cycles of 30 compressions to 2 ventilations for single rescuer or of 15 compressions to 2 ventilations for 2 rescuers), reassess. Repeat.

Consider Intravascular Access
Consider IO
Administer 20mL/kg Normal Saline over 10–20 minutes if IV/IO present
Glucose if < 40 mg/dl:
D10 - 5 mL/kg (<2 years) IV/IO
D25 - 2 mL/kg (2-8 years) IV/IO
D50 - 1 mL/kg (>8 years) IV/IO

Consider Nasogastric or Orogastric Tube for gastric decompression

Transport