## DROWNING/ NEAR DROWNING

- **EMR**
  - General Trauma Assessment & Interventions
  - Initiate CPR as appropriate – see cardiac arrest management guideline
  - Provide for respiratory care & oxygen as needed to ensure SpO₂ >94% - see respiratory emergencies guideline
  - Position the patient to ensure adequate patency of airway – suction as required
  - Initiate care for hypothermia – see environmental emergencies guideline.

- **EMT**
  - May consider CPAP for conscious patients who exhibit signs of pulmonary edema.
  - Aggressive airway management per guidelines – consider placement of King Airway if patient has a GCS < 8 & no gag reflex (if available and trained).

- **AEMT**
  - Initiate vascular access via peripheral IV line
  - If unable to place peripheral IV may initiate pediatric IO placement
  - Fluids administration to maintain systolic BP of 90mmHg to a maximum of 2 Liters
  - May consider pain management if indicated per pain management guideline

- **EMT-I**
  - If unable to place peripheral IV may initiate adult IO placement
  - Initiate cardiac monitoring – See related environmental emergencies & cardiac guidelines

- **PARAMEDIC**
  - Consider Intubation/Rapid Sequence as indicated for patients with GCS <8 or in patients requiring positive pressure ventilation/oxygenation.
    - If able to maintain adequate airway/ventilation and transport time is less than 10 minutes, continue with BLS measures and rapid transport.
  - Consider Midazolam (Versed) 2.5 to 5mg
    - For patients experiencing seizure activity – see seizure guideline.
    - For combative patients – Use higher dose IM/IN to achieve sedation. Also see patient restraint guideline.

### Clinical Care Pearls
- Consider possible medical condition or traumatic event as causes
- Near drowning patients may appear fine and develop complications such as pulmonary edema, ARDS, and pneumonia which may cause them to deteriorate rapidly
- Inform receiving facility of fresh v. salt water exposure and any potential for diving accident that may require hyperbaric intervention.
- Water temperature if avail.