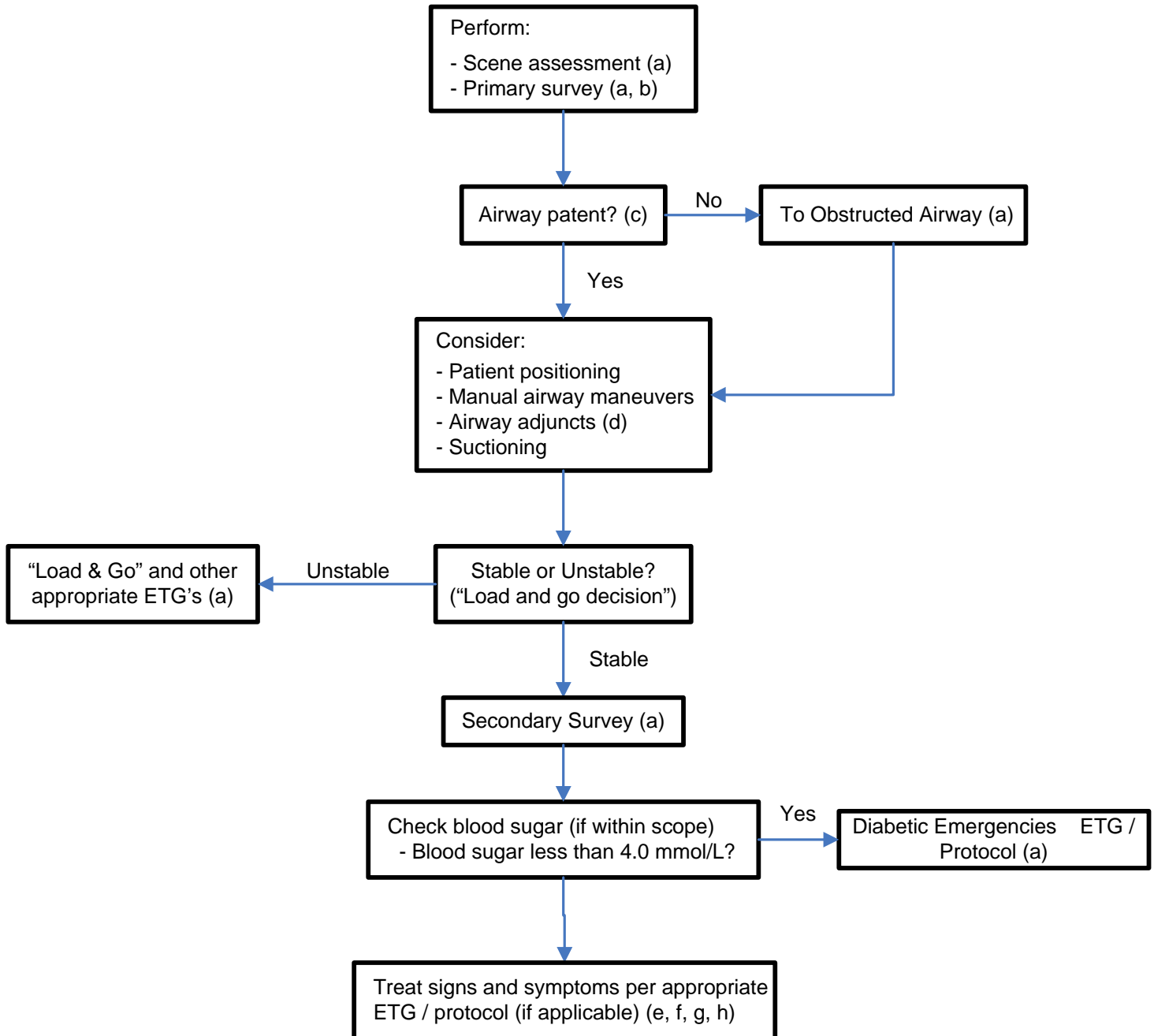


# GENERAL: Unconscious Patient



Health and Healthy Living  
Emergency Medical Services  
Emergency Treatment Guidelines



## GENERAL: Unconscious Patient

- a. Refer to appropriate Emergency Treatment Guideline for a complete description and/or application.
- b. If unconsciousness due to trauma or unknown etiology, assume the patient has a spinal cord injury (see Central Nervous System Injuries ETG). Be prepared to handle a combative, disoriented patient, particularly when the patients' level of consciousness is increasing.
- c. Hypoxia can be reduced or eliminated by ensuring a patient has a patent airway.
- d. Type of airway used is specific to scope of practice or if trained and certified in advanced airway protocols..
- e. Be aware that mixed and/or unknown overdoses can cause multiple signs and symptoms that may be treated in other protocols (i.e. Seizures, External and Internal Bleeding (hypovolemia), Chest Pain (arrhythmias), etc.)
- f. Never assume a syncopal episode is "just a fainting spell."
- g. Talk to the patient, even if apparently unconscious as hearing is the last sense to be lost.
- h. Unconscious patients are to remain NPO unless specifically indicated by a Treatment Protocol or ETG.