Indications

Signs and symptoms or environmental conditions consistent with possible CO exposure. **Note:** Must have a State waiver to use on patients other than FD personnel.

Precautions

1. Remove patient to a safe area prior to assessing SpCO.
2. Normal SpCO readings don't rule out CO exposure. If a patient has symptoms consistent with CO exposure, treat them for CO exposure.

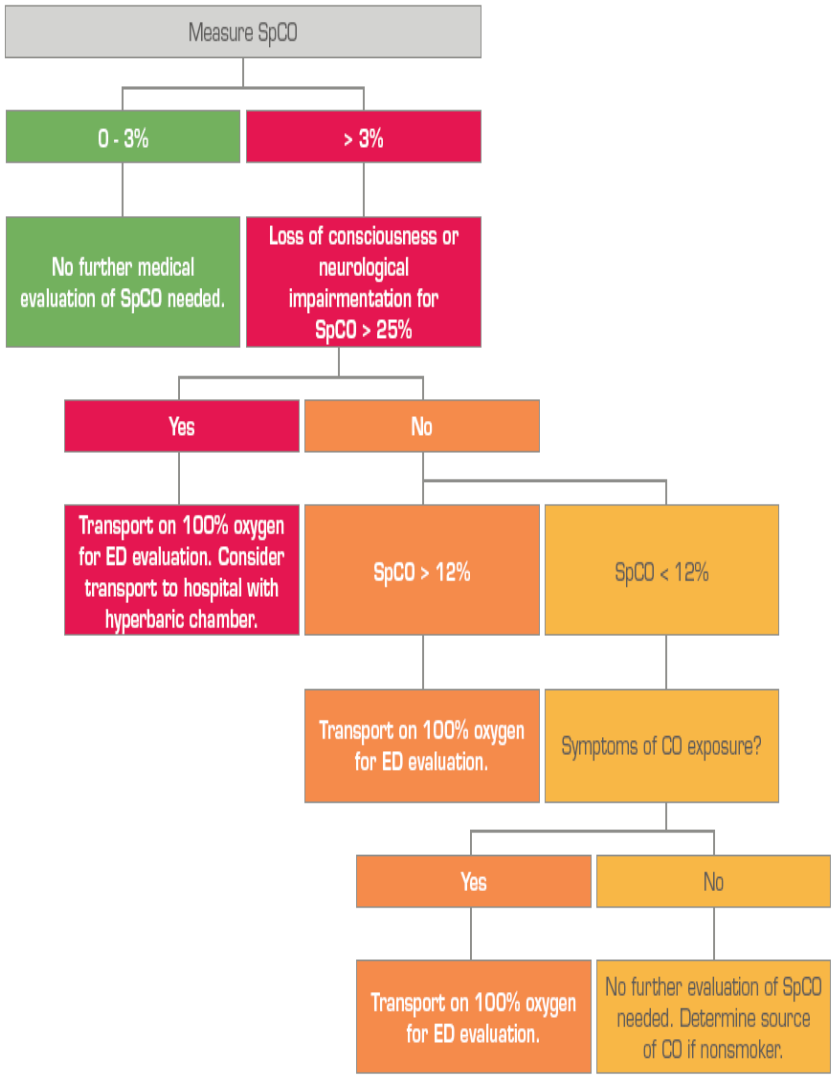
Technique

1. Perform normal patient assessment first and initiate critical interventions if needed.
2. Activate the monitor and check to make sure adequate battery power remains.
3. Place sensor on a finger and wait for the calibration to finish. This may take 20 or more seconds, particularly if the patient moves.
4. Once calibration is complete, the monitor will display SpO_2 and pulse rate.
5. Press the "SpCO" button. The SpCO will read in the top window, and the bottom window will display "CO".
6. Follow the treatment algorithm on the next page.

Notes

1. The vertical LED bar on the right of the lower window is the Perfusion Index. The higher it is, the more reliable the SpCO reading will be. Cold fingers, tight clothing or rings, and medical conditions (diabetes) can cause low perfusion states.
2. Some patients (mostly smokers) will have normally elevated CO levels. If they are asymptomatic, they probably don't require treatment.

SpCO Monitor



La Plata County EMS Protocols Version 2010.1.0