Information Needed:

1. History: how long submerged, loss of consciousness, diving accident, temperature of water.
2. Physical findings: respiratory distress, pulmonary edema, hypothermia, trauma.

Treatment:

1. Protect airway, suction and assist ventilation as needed.
2. Administer high flow O_2.
3. Determine vital signs (pulse, blood pressure, respirations, SpO_2)
4. Perform physical exam.
5. Immobilize neck and back as needed.
6. Establish venous access.
7. Monitor cardiac rhythm.
8. Prevent hypothermia – remove wet clothing and dry patient.

Notes

1. Be prepared for vomiting.
2. All drowning victims should be transported. Patients that initially appear fine can rapidly deteriorate.
3. There is no evidence abdominal thrusts help drowning victims
4. Water rescue should be performed by trained rescuers only. Maintain a safe rescue area. Use safe procedures if the victim is still in the water.