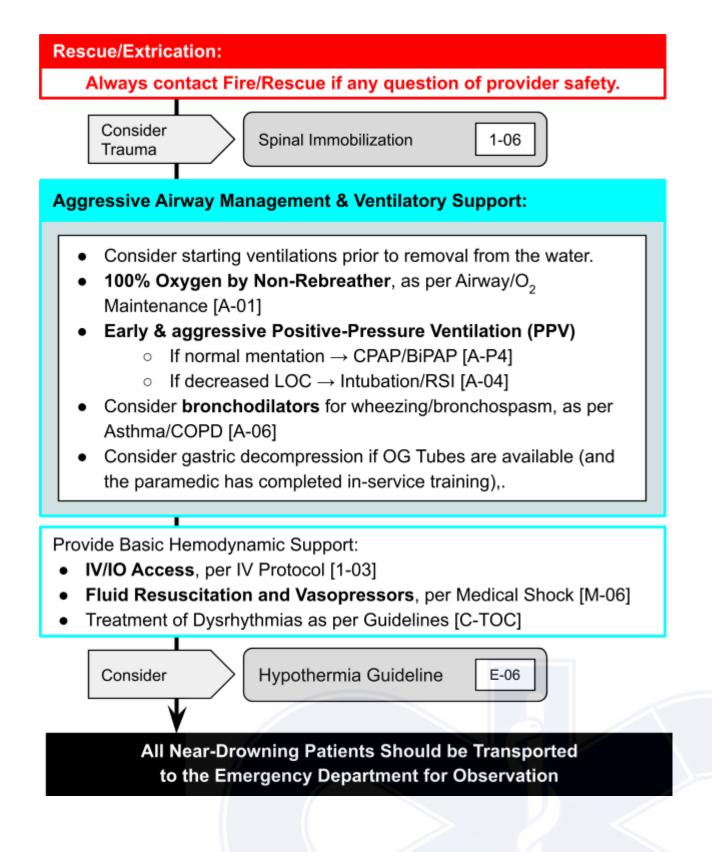
Paramedic	E-03 NEAR DROWNING		First Responder EMT AEMT Paramedic
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First R
EMT
AEMT
Param

## **KEY POINTS:**

- Near-Drowning = Immersion injury of sufficient severity to warrant medical attention, and that may lead to morbidity and death. Drowning = immersion injury with resultant death.
- "Dry drowning" = laryngospasm persists until cardiac arrest (10-20%), otherwise is "wet drowning" (fluid enters lungs).
- Pathophysiology:
  - <u>Hypoxemia</u> leading to acidosis and ultimately CNS damage and cardiac arrest.
  - Even after survival of the initial immersion, fluid aspiration can cause pulmonary surfactant washout leading to atelectasis and ventilation-perfusion (VQ) mismatch. This leads to hypoxia from the perfusion of the non-oxygenated (non-ventilated) lung. Ultimately this can cause "secondary drowning" = death due to development of ARDS/hypoxia.
- Concurrent trauma should be considered on all patients, especially head and neck/spinal injuries.

## **QI Review Parameters:**

1. Pending