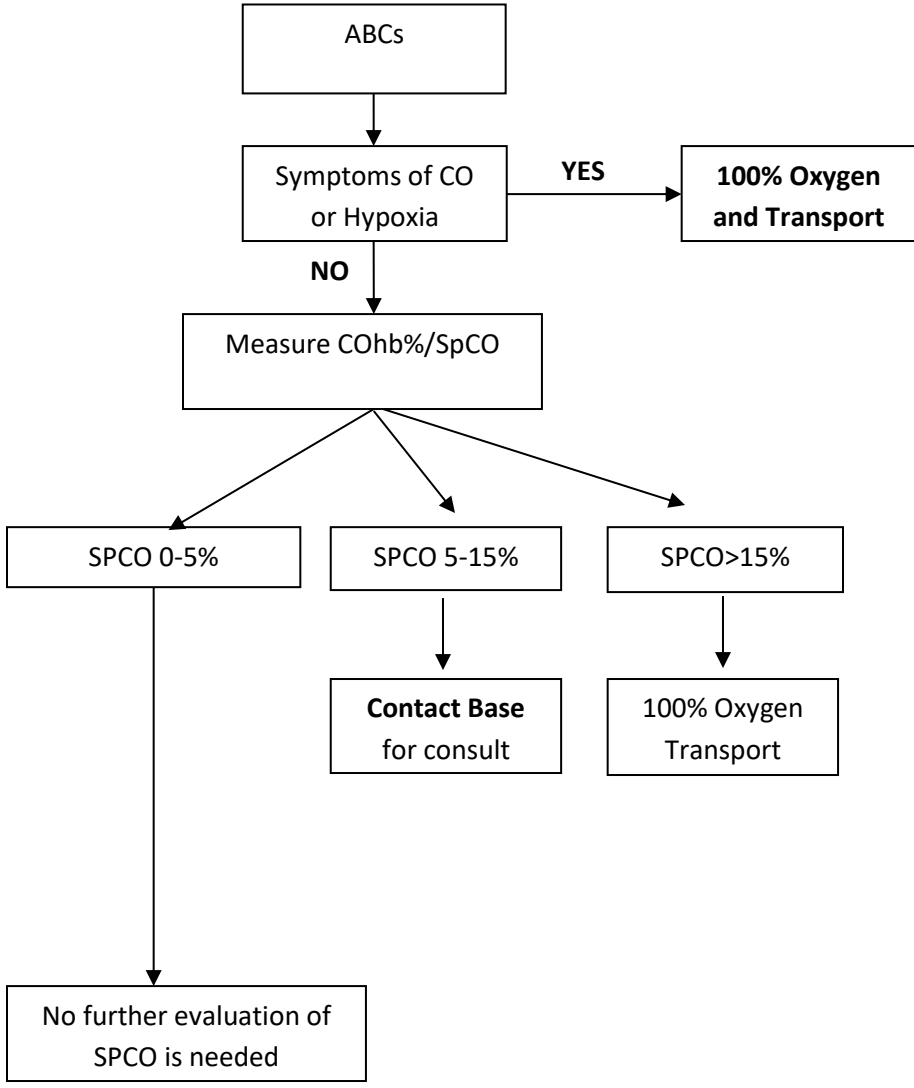


# M050 SUSPECTED CARBON MONOXIDE EXPOSURE



EMT	AEMT
EMT-I	Paramedic

**General Guidelines:**

- Signs and symptoms of CO exposure include: Headache, dizziness, coma, altered mentation, seizures, visual changes, chest pain, tachycardia, arrhythmias, dyspnea, N/V, Flu like illness
- The absence or low readings of COHb is not a reliable predictor of toxicity of other fire byproducts.
- In smoke inhalation victims, consider cyanide treatment with Hydroxycobalamin as per indications
- The Fetus of a pregnant woman is at higher risk due to the greater affinity of fetal hemoglobin to CO. With CO exposure, the pregnant woman may be asymptomatic while the fetus may be in distress
- People who smoke may have SpCO of up to 10% baseline

**Signs and Symptoms per COHb**

- <15-20% COHb
  - Mild: Headache, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, blurred vision
- 21-40% COHb
  - Moderate: Confusion, syncope, chest pain, dyspnea, tachycardia, tachypnea, weakness
- 41-59% COHb
  - Severe: Dysrhythmias, hypotension, cardiac ischemia, palpitations, respiratory arrest, pulmonary edema, seizures, coma, cardiac arrest
- >60% COHb
  - Death