Pediatric Assessment Flowchart

American Heart Association
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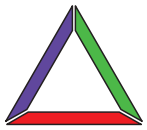
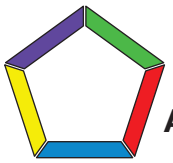


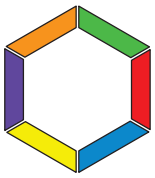
General Assessment

Appearance ▲ Work of Breathing ▲ Circulation



Primary Assessment

Airway Breathing Circulation Disability Exposure



Secondary Assessment

(SAMPLE history, focused physical exam, bedside glucose)

Tertiary Assessment

(laboratory studies, x-rays, other tests)

Categorize illness by type and severity

Respiratory	Circulatory
Respiratory distress or Respiratory failure	*Compensated shock or Hypotensive shock*
Upper airway obstruction Lower airway obstruction Lung tissue disease Disordered control of breathing	Hypovolemic shock Distributive shock Cardiogenic shock Obstructive shock
Respiratory + Circulatory including cardiopulmonary failure	

If at any time during the assessment and categorization process you identify a life-threatening condition

Immediately start life-saving actions

and

activate the emergency response system

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