

Kittitas County Prehospital EMS Protocols

SUBJECT: PATIENT ASSESSMENT

A. Primary Survey

A Primary Survey must be done initially on every patient, and repeated periodically as indicated. This will occur as follows:

1. Determine responsiveness.
2. Evaluate the patency of the airway, and correct any obstructions.
3. Evaluate the adequacy of breathing, and correct any compromising factors.
4. Determine the presence of a pulse, and evaluate bleeding, and correct.

B. Secondary Survey

A secondary survey should be completed as indicated by the patient's condition, and will occur as follows:

1. Determine level of consciousness.
2. Obtain brief history of illness or injury from patient, family or bystanders, as indicated.
3. Perform head-to-toe assessment as indicated.
4. Obtain and record vital signs, to include at least pulse, blood pressure, respirations, skin color, and pupils.
5. Obtain serial vital signs every few minutes for the more seriously ill or injured patient.