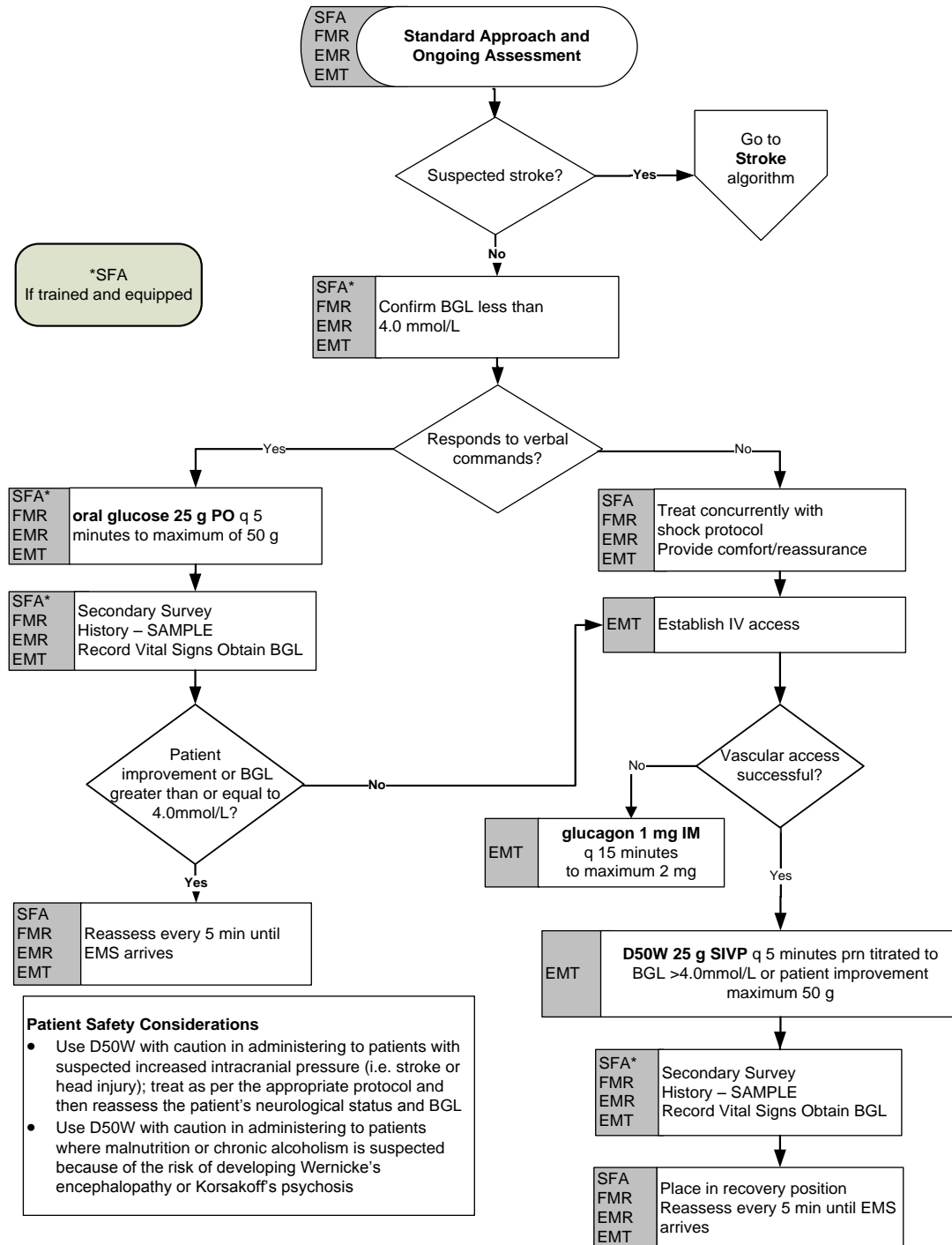


Algorithm 17a Adult Hypoglycemia



Hypoglycemia – Diabetic Emergencies (Algorithm 17)

In a diabetic emergency, giving sugar to someone with low blood glucose can be a life saving measure but providing sugar to someone with high blood glucose will have little negative effect. If in doubt, provide the patient with sugar. If trained and equipped to measure a blood glucose level (BGL) utilizing a blood glucometer, a BGL should be acquired early. A BGL is considered one of the core 5 vital signs in patients that have suspected hyperglycemia, hypoglycemia, seizures, or altered level of consciousness.

A conscious patient who is able to follow instructions can be encouraged to drink or eat something sweet but must have no serious illness and able to swallow. If this is not the case provide comfort measures until EMS arrival.

Treatment

If trained and equipped provide oral glucose.

In the absence of oral glucose prepare a glass of juice (orange/apple) and stir in two tablespoons of sugar. Hand the glass to the patient and encourage them to drink. If unable to comply, do not attempt to force the liquid into their mouth.

In the absence of juice, water/milk with added sugar or soda pop/sports drink with sugar as the main ingredient can be substituted. Avoid diet drinks due to their absence of sugar.