

PEDIATRIC MEDICAL ASSESSMENT

The initial procedures needed to assess and manage pediatric medical patients are similar. Primary cardiac problems are rare in children. Pediatric patients may experience respiratory distress as a result of many different causes.

- A. Perform **Initial Treatment / Universal Patient Care Protocol** and follow the proper protocol for medical management based on clinical presentation.
 - 1. General impression using **Pediatric Assessment Triangle (PAT)**. Appearance, Work of Breathing, and Circulation of Skin. (Appendix C)
 - 2. Hands on physical assessment using **Pediatric ABCDE's**. Airway, breathing, circulation, disability, and exposure.
 - 3. **Do Not** use nasal cannula in infants and small children. Use blow-by oxygen or mask to keep SpO₂ at 94 - 99%.
 - 4. Perform focused history, more detailed physical exam, and ongoing assessment at the appropriate time before or during transport.
- B. Provide immediate resuscitation, as needed, and immediately make transport decision.
- C. **Do Not** use a combitube in patients < 70 lbs. or < 5 feet tall.