



**Apparent Life  
Threatening Events  
Thinking Points**

Legend	
	EMR
	EMT
	Intermediate
	Paramedic
	Medical Control

- **History of any of the following:**
  - Apnea
  - Loss of consciousness
  - Color change
  - Loss in muscle tone
  - Episode of choking or gagging
  - Parental/caregiver actions at the time of the event
  - What resuscitative measures were taken
- **Age 2 years or less**

- Initial Medical Care/Assessment
- Perform a comprehensive physical assessment including:
  - General appearance
  - Evidence of trauma
  - Skin color
  - Extent of interaction with the environment
  - **NOTE:** Exam may be normal
- Treat any identifiable causes as indicated

Glucose check (if available); if unavailable, proceed to disposition section of protocol

**Blood Glucose ≤ 60**

Refer to **Pediatric Altered Mental Status** protocol

**Glucose > 60**

- **ALS/ILS** – Contact Medical Control
- **BLS** - Contact Medical Control (and consider ALS backup/intercept if available)
- **EMR** – Contact dispatch and request appropriate level of care
- Support ABC's
- Observe
- Transport
- Document all findings

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

- **All ALTE patients should be transported for medical evaluation, even the well appearing child.**
- Assume the history given is accurate.

**DEFINITION:** An Apparent Life-Threatening Event (ALTE) is an episode that is frightening to the observer and involves some combination of apnea, color change, marked change in tone, choking or gagging. It may be a presentation for a variety of different pediatric conditions including seizures, upper airway obstruction, gastroesophageal reflux, metabolic problems, anemia and cardiac disease. ALTEs usually occur in infants under 12 months however any child less than 2 years of age who exhibits any of the above symptoms should be considered an ALTE.