Mercy EMS Education

Clinical Operations

November 9, 2026

Flu numbers are rising, positive measles cases continue to turn up in our regions, birds found with highly infectious avian flu have been found in our response areas. Please use your PPE.

Hypotension, A-fib with RVR with altered mental status, bruising to LLQ of abdomen, recent ICU stay.

- Hypotensive, A-fib with RVR with altered mental status can represent a large differential including metabolic, infectious or traumatic causes.
- Those with bruising to the LLQ from possible fall recently could represent trauma and anemia from internal bleeding.
- This patient recently spent time in the ICU receiving heparin for DVT prophylaxis and may have caused abdominal bruising.
- The patient did have a history of liver failure with ascites that makes this a more difficult field diagnosis – liver failure, jaundice, ascites would likely put the patient at increased risk of bleeding.
- All types of history and presenting symptoms that cause this to be a complex case. Ultimately, the crew took great care of the patient, provided some IV fluid and push dose pressors and improved the patients condition on arrival to the ED.

MVA trauma patient with good vitals by extensive damage to the vehicle. Ultimately had a distal I/O femur access and flown to the trauma center.

- The high suspicion for injury is imperative for us to prepare for complications from a MVA.
- However, continuing assessment may help you determine the necessity for procedures and transport destinations.
- With vital signs in the normal range, no signs of injury and continuing assessment may not necessitate I/O placement.
- Having your driver and I/O out and prepared is appropriate, but if un-needed and you are unable to place a peripheral IV, consider keeping your supplies out and ready – but not necessarily placing the I/O.
- If patients continue to show stability and no new assessment findings, it may be appropriate to cancel flight transport (both financially and ethically for your patient – as well as not continuing to expose the flight crew to additional risk).



