



# Back Pain



## History

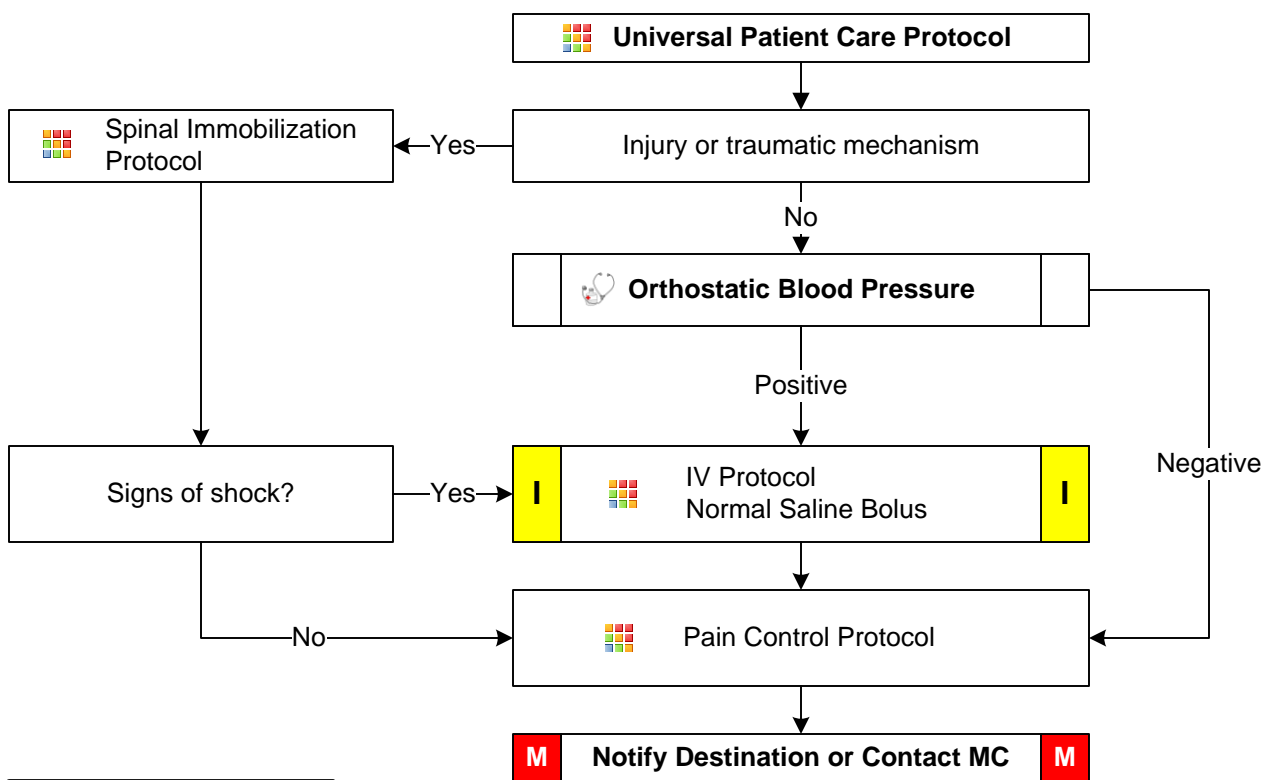
- Age
- Past medical history
- Past surgical history
- Medications
- Onset of pain / injury
- Previous back injury
- Traumatic mechanism
- Location of pain
- Fever
- Improvement or worsening with activity

## Signs and Symptoms

- Pain (paraspinous, spinous process)
- Swelling
- Pain with range of motion
- Extremity weakness
- Extremity numbness
- Shooting pain into an extremity
- Bowel / bladder dysfunction

## Differential

- **Muscle spasm / strain**
- **Herniated disc with nerve compression**
- **Sciatica**
- **Spine fracture**
- **Kidney stone**
- **Pyelonephritis**
- **Aneurysm**
- **Pneumonia**
- **Spinal Epidural Abscess**
- **Metastatic Cancer**



Legend		
	MR	
B	EMT	B
I	EMT- I	I
P	EMT- P	P
M	Medical Control	M

## Pearls

- **Recommended Exam: Mental Status, HEENT, Neck, Chest, Lungs, Abdomen, Back, Extremities, Neuro**
- Abdominal aneurysms are a concern in patients over the age of 50
- Kidney stones typically present with an acute onset of flank pain which radiates around to the groin area.
- Patients with midline pain over the spinous processes should be spinally immobilized.
- Any bowel or bladder incontinence is a significant finding which requires immediate medical evaluation
- In patient with history of IV drug abuse a spinal epidural abscess should be considered.