

PRIMARY SURVEY

Follow the <C>ABCDE Sequence



The Primary Survey is a structured assessment used to identify and manage life-threatening conditions in order of priority. Treat immediately life-threatening problems as they are identified before progressing to the next stage.



<C> Catastrophic Haemorrhage

- ✓ Identify life-threatening bleeding
- ✓ Control haemorrhage immediately
- ✓ Apply a tourniquet when indicated
- ✓ Reassess bleeding control



A – Airway

- ✓ Ensure the airway is open
- ✓ Remove visible obstructions
- ✓ Consider airway manoeuvres
- ✓ Reassess airway patency



B – Breathing

- ✓ Look, listen and feel
- ✓ Assess respiratory rate
- ✓ Identify chest injuries
- ✓ Support oxygenation



C – Circulation

- ✓ Assess pulse and perfusion
- ✓ Control bleeding
- ✓ Identify signs of shock
- ✓ Reassess after treatment



D – Disability

- ✓ Assess using ACVPU
- ✓ Check pupils
- ✓ Consider blood glucose
- ✓ Monitor neurological status



E – Exposure & Environment

- ✓ Identify hidden injuries
- ✓ Maintain patient dignity
- ✓ Prevent heat loss
- ✓ Continue reassessment



KEY PRINCIPLE

Treat life-threatening problems as they are identified and continually reassess the patient throughout their care.



REMEMBER

You are not assessing once. You are continuously reassessing.



CLINICAL SAFETY

- Work within your scope of practice.
- Use appropriate PPE.
- Escalate concerns early.
- Follow local clinical guidelines.



TEAMWORK

Use available resources. Communicate and cooperate with your team.