

Decompression Sickness (Adult and Pediatric)

CFR and All Provider Levels

1. ABCs and vital signs
2. Airway management
3. Administer oxygen
4. Assess for shock and treat as needed

CFR STOP

EMT

5. Transport patients with any of the following signs and symptoms of decompression sickness after diving AND their companion divers to the closest Hyperbaric Center (Appendix I:Hospital Specialty Capabilities):
 - Neurologic: abnormal gait, dizziness, extremity weakness/numbness
 - Cardiac/Respiratory: chest pain, difficulty breathing, hypoxia
 - Gastrointestinal: abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting
 - Musculoskeletal: joint/muscle pain, painful range of motion
 - Skin: rashes or itching

EMT STOP

Paramedic

Paramedic STOP

Medical Control Options

Key Points / Considerations

- Transport patients as determined by the General Operating Procedures to the closest appropriate Hyperbaric Center
- Bring the patient's dive computer/dive watch, if available
- If possible, obtain the following information regarding the dive:
 - Specific information for the dive(s) including:
 - Maximum depth
 - Total time spent underwater
 - Bottom time
 - Time of ascension to the surface
 - Mixture of compressed gases used during the dive(s)
 - Any improvement of symptoms since ascension to the surface
 - Time since last dive was completed and any air travel history since the last dive