



# Diving Diseases Research Centre

## DIVING ACCIDENT MANAGEMENT FLOWCHART

- ◆ Locate diver's logbook and/or dive computer
- ◆ Carry out treatment as below
- ◆ Keep the diver as warm and sheltered as possible
- ◆ Secure diving equipment, **DO NOT DISMANTLE**

Has Diver breathed compressed air underwater in the last 48 hours?



**DIVING ACCIDENT**

YES



NO

**Not a Diving Accident**  
Begin CPR if necessary  
Administer First Aid+Oxygen  
Evacuate to nearest hospital  
Keep under observation

**Mild Symptoms**  
Fatigue  
Skin Rash  
Itching

**Worsening or Initial Serious Symptoms:**  
Unusual Weakness  
Pains  
Pins + Needles  
Dizziness  
Severe Cough  
Shortness of Breath  
Visual Disturbances  
Balance problems  
Paralysis  
Unconsciousness

EMERGENCY Nos:

**DDRC:**  
01752 209999

**Institute of Naval Medicine:**  
07831 151523

**HM Coastguard**  
Channel 16 or 999

Administer 100% Oxygen  
Administer 1 litre fluid orally if poss.  
Place in recovery position

YES

**COMPLETE RELIEF WITHIN 30 mins?**

NO

Keep diver under observation  
Contact Diving Physician immediately

Call the emergency services  
Provide CPR if necessary and monitor diver closely  
Continue administering 100% Oxygen (no "air breaks")  
Continue administering 1 litre of fluids orally if possible  
Keep diver in recovery position  
Arrange immediate evacuation to hyperbaric facility

Administration of 100% Oxygen helps reduce inert gas bubble size and increases oxygen concentration to areas in need for all diving casualties

