Figure 1: Outline of a new patient assessment model for paramedics

**SCENE MANAGEMENT**
- Body substance isolation precautions
- Assess for threats/hazards
- Assess the need for additional resources
- Determine number of patients
  - If indicated, request additional EMS units
- Control scene
  - Position EMS unit; provide lighting, remove obstacles, eliminate distractions; clear area around patient

**PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT**
- Assess for and control severe hemorrhage
- Assess mechanism of injury
  - Delegate C-spine control
- Assess nature of illness
- Formulate general impression
  - Behavior, appearance of skin, work of breathing

**PRIMARY ASSESSMENT**
- Level of consciousness
  - Responsiveness, orientation
- Airway and breathing
  - Circulation
    - Pulse; skin color, temperature, moisture
- Determine chief complaint
- Determine status

**SECONDARY ASSESSMENT**
- Expose
  - Remove necklaces, chains, loose jewelry, outer garments, and any clothing that will interfere with assessment or treatment
- Delegate
  - Patient position, oxygen therapy, ECG, vital signs, SpO2, blood glucose, locate medical charts/medications
- Interview
  - History of present illness; social, family, lifestyle history; general medical history; allergies; medications
- Examine (thorough physical exam)

**TREATMENT & REASSESSMENT**
- Diagnose
- Treat
  - Delegate BLS treatment; perform or delegate ALS treatment (if possible)
- Reassess
  - Level of consciousness, vital signs, improvement/deterioration of condition