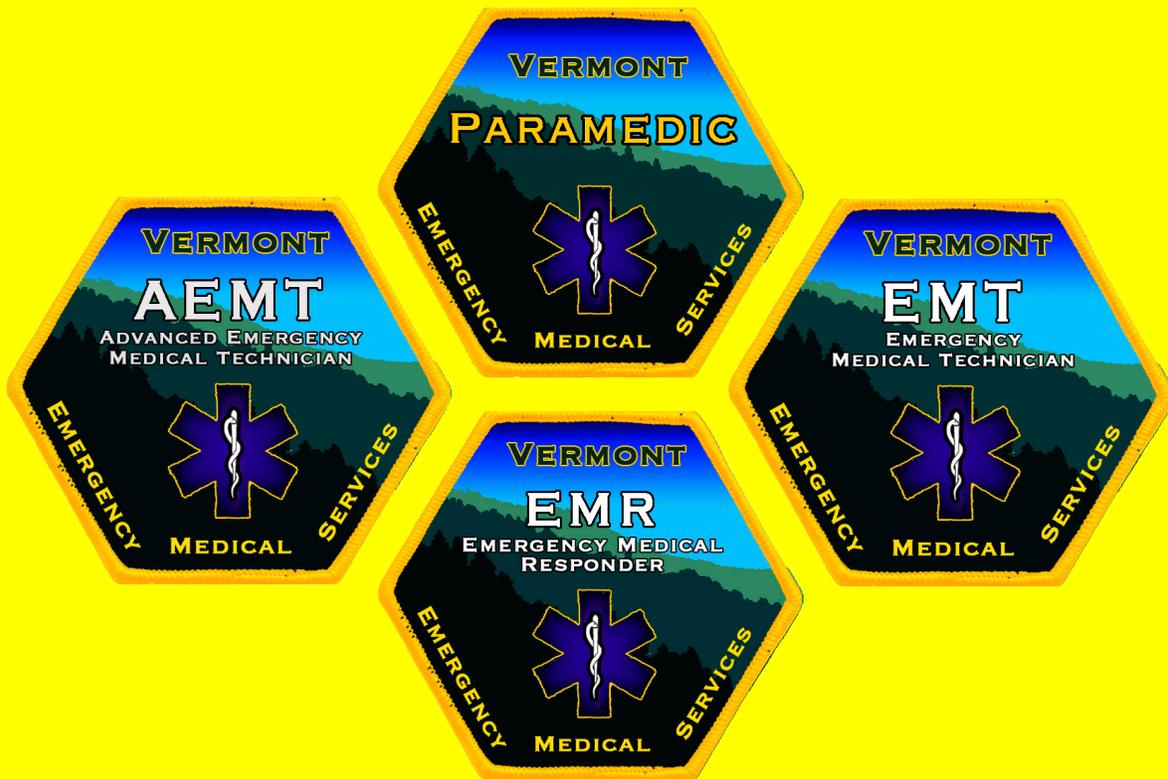




Vermont Statewide Emergency Medical Services Protocols

2018



Vermont Department of Health

Office of Public Health Preparedness and Emergency Medical Services

Vermont Statewide EMS Protocols – April 2018 (replaces September 2015 revisions)

Legend	Definition
	Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
	Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)
	Paramedic
	Extended Care Protocol
	CAUTION – Red Flag topic
	Telephone Medical Direction
	Pediatric

Blue underline – text formatted as a hyperlink

These protocols are a “living document” developed and drafted by the Protocol Committee of Vermont Emergency Medical Services.

These 2018 Vermont Statewide EMS Protocols were reviewed, edited, and approved of by all of Vermont's District Medical Advisors and other stakeholders. Any deviation from these protocols must be approved in writing by the Vermont EMS Office.

Please Note: For visual clarity, trademark and registered symbols have not been included with drug, product, or equipment names.

Questions and comments should be directed to:

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& Injury Prevention
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DISCLAIMER: Although the authors of this document have made great efforts to ensure that all the information is accurate, there may be errors. The authors cannot be held responsible for any such errors. For the latest corrections to these protocols, see the Vermont EMS website at: <http://www.vermontems.org>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Our EMS patch designs come from Chris Carfaro of Richmond, VT. His design for us was a donation, and he can be contacted at chriscarfaro@me.com

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Preface

We welcome you to the 2018 Statewide Vermont EMS protocols. These protocols represent the work of many people across the state and the continued evolution of prehospital medicine in Vermont. In this process, these protocols have been reviewed by and specific feedback has been received and incorporated from:

- All 13 physicians who serve as District Medical Advisors
- Department of Mental Health
- Department of Children and Families
- Vermont State Police
- Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
- Howard Center
- Disability Rights Vermont
- Vermont Ethics Network
- Vermont Stroke Task Force
- Vermont American Heart Association
- Northern New England Poison Control
- Over 80 other EMS providers, agencies, and districts

The Vermont Department of Health Division of Emergency Preparedness, Response and Injury Prevention has attempted to ensure that all information in these protocols is accurate and in accordance with the best medical evidence available and relevant professional guidelines as commonly practiced at the time of publication. Use of these protocols is intended for Vermont licensed EMS organizations and their affiliated licensed personnel functioning under medical direction. EMS District Medical Advisors may restrict but not expand the scope of practice at each level as outlined in these protocols. On rare occasions drug shortages may require substitutions as communicated by the State EMS Medical Director. Vermont EMS personnel, instructors, and organizations are free to reproduce this document in whole or in part for educational, QA/QI, field guidance, or similar purposes.

We continually scan for errors of all types (medication dosing, spelling, grammar, or punctuation), clarify wording that may be confusing, incorporate feedback from EMS providers, and monitor medical literature to keep abreast of current EMS practice. Please contact the EMS office with any suggestions for future revisions or corrections at vtems@vermont.gov

All licensed providers functioning within the Vermont EMS system are required to be familiar with the contents of this document pertinent to their level of training and licensure. Updates to these protocols prior to the next full revision will be posted on the Vermont EMS website and sent via email to all agency heads, district chairs, and district medical advisors. Agency heads are responsible for assuring that any updates are provided to their affiliated personnel and any required training and credentialing occurs. Any updates will also be sent to all licensed EMS providers that have provided Vermont EMS with a valid email address and are on the Vermont EMS listserv. Contact the office to add your email address to this listserv if you do not already receive periodic updates.

When using an electronic version of this document, you will find hyperlinks to each referenced protocol.

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Preface

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IMPORTANT CLARIFICATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Protocol Implementation

These protocols are written for the National EMS Scope of Practice Model levels (EMR, EMT, AEMT and Paramedic). When an entire agency has completed training on these protocols, they may begin to use these new protocols. Appendix 3 contains the scope of practice matrix.

EMR Scope of Practice

The skills and interventions of the EMR scope of practice are described in the EMR Routine Patient Care section of this document.

Protocol Labeling

Protocols that are labeled #.A or #.P indicate the adult and pediatric versions of that protocol when appropriate. If no designation is listed and it is not obvious (such as newborn resuscitation), the protocol applies to both adult and pediatric patients.

Standing Orders Are Cumulative

Standing orders are those orders that may be carried out by an EMS provider – at his or her discretion – without the need for on-line Medical Direction. However, EMS providers at any level of training are encouraged to contact on-line Medical Direction in cases where they believe treatment beyond standing orders is warranted, cases where there is uncertainty regarding treatment or in cases involving medicolegal or jurisdictional issues.

The standing orders for AEMTs and Paramedics inherently include the standing orders of the lower levels. The sequence as they appear in these protocols is not necessarily the order in which they might be executed by a provider at the higher level.

Calling for Advanced Life Support

Throughout the protocols, in any case where an AEMT or Paramedic can provide interventions beyond those of an EMT, the protocol indicates, “Call for paramedic intercept, if available. If paramedic intercept is not available, call for AEMT intercept, if available.” When the protocol says **call** for Paramedic or AEMT intercept, it means **consider** obtaining an intercept based upon the clinical situation and availability. The intent of this statement is to indicate those clinical situations where a paramedic can provide assessment and interventions beyond those of an AEMT and those situations where an AEMT can provide assessment and interventions beyond those of an EMT. Nothing in these protocols should be interpreted as requiring paramedic level care on certain calls or statewide. When paramedic care is available in the system that has been established locally whether through that agency’s own personnel or through mutual aid or intercept agreement, the protocols indicate which clinical situations should receive that level of care. The same principle applies to the statement of when to call for an AEMT.

Transfer of Care

When transferring care of a patient, an on-duty EMS provider must ensure the receiving caregiver is licensed at an equal or higher level unless the patient’s condition and reasonably anticipated complications can be effectively managed by a lower level provider’s scope of

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practice. For example, a paramedic who is a member of a first responder agency may transfer care of a patient with an uncomplicated ankle injury to an EMT for transport. On the other hand, a patient who receives interventions at a higher level on the scene shall only have care transferred to the same or higher level provider.

Example 1: A Paramedic with a first responder agency treats a patient with an uncomplicated broken toe, but does not administer any narcotic analgesia or provide other paramedic-level interventions beyond assessment. There is no reasonable expectation that the patient may need advanced interventions during transport. Care may be transferred to an AEMT- or EMT-level crew on the ambulance service which responds.

Example 2: An AEMT that is off-duty and outside of their normal response area assists as a bystander on a patient that has a seizure. Since this provider is off-duty and does not carry medications or other devices which require a physician order on their person, they have provided no AEMT-level care to the patient beyond assessment. The care of this patient may be transferred to the EMT-level crew that is responsible for the jurisdiction.

Example 3: An AEMT that responds with a first-responder agency arrives on the scene of a cardiac arrest and begins treatment including starting an IV or IO. The ambulance service that responds has EMT-level providers. Care may not be transferred to the EMT crew. The AEMT or higher provider must transport with the patient to the hospital.

Requests for Out-of-Scope Procedures

Please note that while medical direction may have some variation from facility to facility, on-line Medical Direction may not direct providers to practice outside their scope of practice. Likewise, providers should not ask to perform procedures outside their scope of practice as defined within these protocols. Providers that perform a procedure outside their scope of practice risk the loss of their EMS licensure.

Medication and Equipment Options

Multiple medications are sometimes listed within a protocol and multiple options for some medical equipment are provided (eg. LMA, i-gel, King-LT, different types of Intraosseous devices, etc.). This is intended to provide Medical Direction and agencies with options for treatment and help deal with inevitable medication shortages. This should not be interpreted as requiring agencies to stock all of the medications or devices listed in a given classification. As an example, agencies may choose to stock only one benzodiazepine or may choose to stock multiple options. When a medication becomes unavailable to an agency and there is no alternative listed in these protocols, the agency head or designee should contact the Vermont EMS office in a timely fashion. The state medical director will work with the agency, hospital, and other parties to identify and approve appropriate alternatives and any training that may be required for a medication not usually listed or approved.

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Preface

Preface Continued

Extended Care Protocols

Throughout the document you will find sections in relevant protocols identified with an “X” in blue. These are intended to be used in remote settings where transport will be significantly delayed or impossible due to wilderness or disaster settings. These are not intended for transports of normal travel distance and time.

Incident Command

Incident command will be structured in accordance with the Incident Command System (ICS) of the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Off-Duty EMS Personnel

These protocols apply statewide. EMS providers that are bystanders when off duty outside the normal response area of their affiliated agency should provide BLS care and notify 911. Once the agency with jurisdiction arrives, care should be transferred.

On-Duty EMS Crews Outside of Normal Response Area

These protocols apply statewide and therefore cover mutual aid responses as well as incidental patient contact regardless of where in Vermont it occurs.

Example 1: ABC Rescue squad comes across a car crash while returning to their station after transporting to a hospital that is in a different EMS district. ABC Rescue follows these statewide protocols.

Example 2: XYZ Fire/Rescue is called to provide mutual aid into a different EMS district on a mass-casualty call. XYZ Fire/Rescue follows these statewide protocols.

Protocol Determination Regarding State Borders

Ambulance services that are licensed in Vermont and a bordering state shall follow the protocols of the state where patient contact is made, regardless of the destination.

Ambulance services that are licensed in Vermont only shall follow these Vermont protocols at all times.

Continuous Quality Improvement

Quality improvement permeates every aspect of our lives... we strive for a better outcome with each decision. The Vermont Statewide EMS Protocols are no different. With each edition, we endeavor to make them better than they were before, knowing that we will improve and refine them in the future as evidence, experience and technology dictate.

The Vermont Department of Health wishes to thank the entire Vermont EMS community for its involvement in updating the Vermont Statewide EMS Protocols. The continued quality of this

Preface Continues

Preface



Preface Continued

document comes from your thoughtful suggestions and feedback. These are truly *your* protocols. We would also like to thank New Hampshire Bureau of EMS for providing an excellent model for these protocols.

Be safe,

Chris Bell
Director

Dan Batsie
EMS Chief

Lindsey Simpson
Training Administrator

Daniel Wolfson, MD
Medical Director

Division of Emergency Preparedness, Response and
Injury Prevention
Vermont Department of Health

RESPOND TO SCENE IN A SAFE MANNER

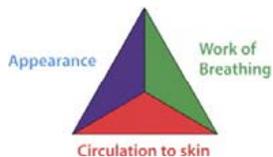
- Review dispatch information.
- Use lights and sirens and/or preemptive devices when responding as appropriate per emergency medical dispatch information and local guidelines.
- Use Incident Command System (ICS) for all responses and scene management.

SCENE ARRIVAL AND SIZE-UP

- Standard precautions, scene safety, environmental hazards assessment, number of patients, need for additional resources, and bystander safety.
- Initiate Mass Casualty Incident procedures as necessary.
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available, for patients with unstable vital signs, respiratory distress or other life-threatening conditions. If Paramedic intercept is not available, call for AEMT intercept, if available.

PATIENT APPROACH

- Determine mechanism of injury / nature of illness.
- If patient is in cardiac arrest, refer to the [Cardiac Arrest Protocol - Adult 3.2A](#) or [Cardiac Arrest Protocol - Pediatric 3.2P](#).
- Determine if pediatric protocols apply. "Pediatric Patient" is defined as a child who fits on a length-based resuscitation tape up to 36 kg (79 lbs) or 145 cm (57 in). Use a pediatric reference tool, such as a length-based resuscitation tape, when treating pediatric patients. Contact **Medical Direction** in case any uncertainty exists regarding drug dosing.
- Establish responsiveness.
- General impression.



Comparison of Adult and Pediatric Assessment Triangle			
	Appearance	Work of Breathing	Circulation to Skin
Adult	Awake, speaking, eye opening, agitated, limp, unresponsive	Labored, noisy, fast, slow, equal chest rise	Pink, flushed, pale, ashen, cyanosis
Pediatric	Muscle tone, interactiveness, consolability, gaze/look, speech/cry	Airway sounds, body position, head bobbing, chest wall retractions, nasal flaring, grunting	Pallor, mottling, cyanosis

- Determine if DNR/COLST protocol applies ([DNR/COLST Policy 8.9](#)).

AIRWAY AND BREATHING

- Airway
 - Assess the patient for a patent airway.
 - Open the airway using a head-tilt/chin-lift, or a jaw thrust if suspicious of cervical spine injury.
 - Suction the airway as needed.
 - Treat foreign body obstruction in accordance with current guidelines.
 - Consider an oropharyngeal or nasopharyngeal airway.
 - Consider advanced airway interventions as appropriate and as trained and credentialed to perform.
- Assess breathing: rate, effort, tidal volume, and breath sounds.
 - If breathing is inadequate, ventilate with 100% oxygen using bag-valve-mask.
 - Administer oxygen to maintain O₂ saturation ≥ 94% (≥ 90% for COPD patient).
 - Skin signs, pulse oximetry and mental status are important in assessing potential hypoxia.
 - Consider quantitative/waveform capnography (aka: EtCO₂) and/or CO-oximetry, if available.
 - Assess lung sounds and chest.





CIRCULATION ASSESSMENT

- Assess patient's pulse, noting rate, rhythm, and quality.
 - Control active bleeding using direct pressure, pressure bandages, tourniquets, and/or hemostatic bandages. See [Tourniquet & Hemostatic Agent Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 6.7](#).
 - Apply a topical hemostatic bandage, in combination with direct pressure, for wounds in anatomical areas where tourniquets cannot be applied and sustained direct pressure alone is ineffective or impractical. Only apply topical hemostatic agents in a gauze format that supports wound packing. Only utilize topical hemostatic agents which have been determined to be effective and safe in a standardized laboratory injury model.
 - Assess patient's skin color, capillary refill, temperature, and moisture.
 - Establish IV access and fluid resuscitation as appropriate for the patient's condition.
 - For adult patients, administer fluids to maintain systolic blood pressure per the [Shock Protocol – Adult 2.21A](#).
 - For pediatric patients, administer fluids based on physiological signs and therapeutic end-points per the [Shock Protocol -- Pediatric 2.21P](#). Administer IV fluid using a volume-controlled device/ method such as an inline 3-way stopcock or similar device.
-  Consider obtaining a blood sample, per receiving hospital's preference. Note: An AEMT may draw a blood sample during an IV initiation, but must first be trained and credentialed by their agency and hospital.

NOTE: An IV for the purposes of these protocols is a saline lock or intravenous line with 0.9% NaCl (normal saline), unless otherwise specified in an individual protocol. Routes of medication administration when written as "IV" can also include "IO".

DISABILITY ASSESSMENT

- Assess level of consciousness appropriate for age; use Glasgow Coma Scale for trauma.
- If altered level of consciousness, check finger stick blood glucose via glucometer.
- Utilize spinal motion restriction, if indicated by assessment, see [Advanced Spinal Assessment Protocol 6.0](#).
- For pediatric patients requiring spinal motion restriction, see [Pediatric Transportation 8.13](#).

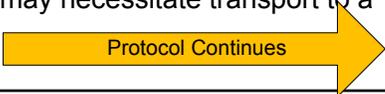
Glasgow Coma Scale 						
Best Motor Response	Score	Best Verbal Response	Verbal - Infants	Score	Eye Opening	Score
Obeys commands/spontaneous	6	Oriented	Babbles	5	Open	4
Localizes pain	5	Disoriented	Irritable	4	To voice	3
Withdraws from pain	4	Inappropriate words	Cries to pain	3	To Pain	2
Decorticate posturing/flexion	3	Moans, unintelligible	Moans	2	No response	1
Decerebrate posturing/extension	2	No response	No response	1		
No response	1					

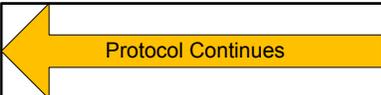
ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT INTERCEPT

- When indicated in protocol, call for Paramedic intercept if available. If Paramedic intercept is unavailable, call for AEMT intercept, if available.

TRANSPORT DECISION

- In general, patients should be transported to the closest appropriate hospital. Operational needs and/or patient preference should be considered.
- The destination hospital and mode of transport are determined by the EMS provider with the highest medical level providing patient care; it should not be determined by other emergency responders or bystanders.
- Regionalized systems of care for STEMI, stroke and trauma patients may necessitate transport to a hospital beyond the nearest facility.
- Notify receiving facility as early as possible.





- Lights and sirens should be justified by the need for immediate medical intervention that is beyond the capabilities of the ambulance crew using available supplies and equipment. Use of lights and sirens should be documented on the patient care report. Exceptions can be made under extraordinary circumstances.
- Consider aeromedical transportation when indicated by patient acuity and ground transport time. See [Air Medical Transport Protocol 8.1](#) and [Trauma Triage and Transport Decision Protocol 8.18](#).

SECONDARY/FOCUSED ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT

- Obtain chief complaint, history of present illness, and prior medical history.
- Complete a physical assessment as appropriate for the patient's presentation.
- Refer to appropriate protocol(s) for further treatment options.
- Determine level of pain.
- Consider field diagnostic tests including: cardiac monitoring, obtain and transmit 12-lead ECG, blood glucose, temperature, stroke assessment, pulse oximetry, quantitative/ waveform capnography, point-of-care ultrasound, etc.
- Dress and bandage lacerations and abrasions.
- Cover evisceration with a sterile dressing to prevent heat loss.
- Maintain normal body temperature.
- Stabilize impaled objects. Do not remove an impaled object unless it interferes with CPR or your ability to maintain the patient's airway.
- Monitor vital signs at least every 15 minutes (at least every 5 minutes if the patient is unstable).

MAJOR MULTIPLE SYSTEM TRAUMA

- Patients that meet trauma criteria must be expeditiously moved into the trauma system to maximize the likelihood of survival. (See [Trauma Triage and Transport Decision Protocol 8.18](#).)
- Minimize scene time to less than 10 minutes post-extrication.
- On-scene field measures should be limited to the primary assessment, rapid trauma assessment, hemorrhage control, CPR, placement of a cervical collar and spinal motion restriction if indicated, rapid extrication if indicated, airway maneuvers, and chest injury management. Other treatment and assessment should be carried out enroute to the hospital.

CIRCUMSTANCES NOT COVERED UNDER STATEWIDE EMS PROTOCOLS

- It is impossible to write a protocol for every potential situation. In rare instances where the patient's best interests may not be specifically addressed in a protocol, **contact on-line Medical Direction.**
- Please note that while medical direction can have some variation from facility to facility, on-line Medical Direction may not direct providers to practice outside their scope of practice, and likewise, providers should not ask to perform procedures outside their scope of practice as defined within these protocols.



Protocol Continues

RESPIRATORY REFERENCE TABLES



Bag-Valve-Mask Ventilation (BVM) Rates		
Patient	Basic Airway	Supraglottic/ETT*
Adult	10 – 12 breaths per minute	6 – 10 breaths per minute
Child	12 – 20 breaths per minute	8 – 10 breaths per minute
Infant	20 – 30 breaths per minute	8 – 10 breaths per minute

* Ventilation rates should be titrated to goal EtCO₂, if available, or patient conditions (e.g. severe asthma, aspirin overdose, traumatic brain injury). Note: In children, pulse oximetry may identify clinically significant hypoxia that may be missed through evaluation of skin signs alone.

Pulse Oximetry Readings and Oxygen Administration		
Percent O ₂ Saturation	Ranges	General Patient Care
≥ 94%	Normal	Usually indicate adequate oxygenation; validate with clinical assessment (see below)
90% – 93%	Mild hypoxia	Consider O ₂ to maintain saturation ≥ 94%. Caution in COPD patients.
Less than 90%	Moderate to severe hypoxia	Give oxygen to maintain saturation 94%, as needed.

Notes:

- If pulse oximeter's heart rate is not the same as ECG monitor's heart rate, oxygen saturation reading may not be reliable.
- If patient is profoundly anemic or dehydrated, oxygen saturation may be 100%, but patient may be hypoxemic.
- False pulse oximetry readings may occur in the following: hypothermia, hyperthermia, acidosis, alkalosis, hypoperfusion, carbon monoxide poisoning, hemoglobin abnormality (sickle cell anemia), vasoconstriction, and in the presence of nail polish.

ETCO ₂ Readings and Ventilatory Rates		
EtCO ₂ Reading	Ranges	General Patient Care
35 mmHg – 45 mmHg	Normal	Usually indicate adequate ventilation; validate with clinical assessment (see below)
Greater than 45 mmHg	Hypercarbia	Consider increasing ventilatory rate, assess adjuncts for occlusions
Less than 35 mmHg	Hypocarbica	Consider slowing ventilatory rate.

Signs and Symptoms of Pediatric Respiratory Distress or Failure

Pediatric Respiratory Distress	Pediatric Respiratory Failure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to maintain adequate oxygenation by using extra effort to move air. • Symptoms include increased respiratory rate, sniffing position, nasal flaring, abnormal breath sounds, head bobbing, intercostal retractions, mild tachycardia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hallmarks of respiratory failure are respiratory rate less than 20 breaths per minute for children <6 years old; less than 12 breaths per minute for children <16 years old; and >60 breaths per minutes for any child; cyanosis, marked tachycardia or bradycardia, poor peripheral perfusion, decreased muscle tone, mottling, and depressed mental status.
Respiratory distress in children and infants must be promptly recognized and aggressively treated as patient may decompensate quickly.	

Abnormal Pediatric Vital Signs

Age	Heart Rate	Resp Rate	Systolic BP	Temp (°C)
0 d - 1 m	> 205	> 60	< 60	< 36 or > 38
≥ 1 m - 3 m	> 205	> 60	< 70	< 36 or > 38
≥ 3 m - 1 yr	> 190	> 60	< 70	< 36 or > 38.5
≥ 1 yr - 2 yrs	> 190	> 40	< 70 + (age in yrs x 2)	< 36 or > 38.5
≥ 2 yrs - 4 yrs	> 140	> 40	< 70 + (age in yrs x 2)	< 36 or > 38.5
≥ 4 yrs - 6 yrs	> 140	> 34	< 70 + (age in yrs x 2)	< 36 or > 38.5
≥ 6 yrs - 10 yrs	> 140	> 30	< 70 + (age in yrs x 2)	< 36 or > 38.5
≥ 10 yrs - 13 yrs	> 100	> 30	< 90	< 36 or > 38.5
≥ 13 yrs	> 100	> 16	< 90	< 36 or > 38.5



When a child tires and is unable to maintain adequate oxygenation, respiratory failure occurs and may lead to rapid cardiac arrest.

RESPOND TO SCENE IN A SAFE MANNER

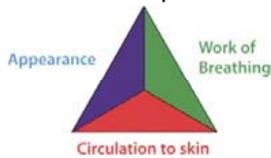
- Review dispatch information.
- Use lights and sirens and/or pre-emptive devices when responding as appropriate per emergency medical dispatch information and local guidelines.
- Use Incident Command System (ICS) for all responses and scene management.

SCENE ARRIVAL AND SIZE-UP

- Standard precautions, scene safety, environmental hazards assessment, number of patients, need for additional resources, and bystander safety.
- Initiate Mass Casualty Incident procedures as necessary.
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available, for patients with unstable vital signs, respiratory distress or other life-threatening conditions. If Paramedic intercept is not available, call for AEMT intercept, if available.

PATIENT APPROACH

- Determine mechanism of injury / nature of illness.
- If patient is in cardiac arrest refer to the [Cardiac Arrest Protocol -- Adult 3.2A](#) or [Cardiac Arrest Protocol - Pediatric 3.2P](#).
- Determine if pediatric protocols apply. "Pediatric Patient" is defined as a child who fits on a length-based resuscitation tape up to 36 kg (79 lbs) or 145 cm (57 in). Use a pediatric resource tool, such as a length-based resuscitation tape, when treating pediatric patients.
- Establish responsiveness
- General Impression.



Comparison of Adult and Pediatric Assessment Triangle			
	Appearance	Work of Breathing	Circulation to Skin
Adult	Awake, speaking, eye opening, agitated, limp, unresponsive	Labored, noisy, fast, slow, equal chest rise	Pink, flushed, pale, ashen, cyanosis
Pediatric	Muscle tone, interactiveness, consolability, gaze/look, speech/cry	Airway sounds, body position, head bobbing, chest wall retractions, nasal flaring, grunting	Pallor, mottling, cyanosis



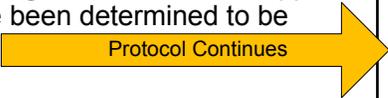
- Determine if DNR/COLST protocol applies ([DNR/COLST Policy 8.9](#)).

AIRWAY AND BREATHING

- Airway
 - Assess the patient for a patent airway.
 - Open the airway using a head-tilt/chin-lift, or a jaw thrust if suspicious of cervical spine injury.
 - Suction the airway as needed.
 - Treat foreign body obstruction in accordance with current guidelines.
 - Consider an oropharyngeal airway.
- Assess breathing: rate, effort, tidal volume, and breath sounds.
 - If breathing is inadequate, ventilate with 100% oxygen using bag-valve-mask.
 - Administer oxygen to address signs of hypoxia:
 - Skin signs, respiratory distress, tachypnea, tachycardia and global mental status changes are important in assessing potential hypoxia.
 - Assess lung sounds and chest.

CIRCULATION ASSESSMENT

- Assess patient's pulse, noting rate, rhythm, and quality.
- Control active bleeding using direct pressure, pressure bandages, tourniquets, or hemostatic bandages. See [Tourniquet & Hemostatic Agent Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 6.7](#).
 - Apply a topical hemostatic bandage, in combination with direct pressure, for wounds in anatomical areas where tourniquets cannot be applied and sustained direct pressure alone is ineffective or impractical. Only apply topical hemostatic agents in a gauze format that supports wound packing. Only utilize topical hemostatic agents which have been determined to be effective and safe in a standardized laboratory injury model.
 - Assess patient's skin color, capillary refill, temperature, and moisture.



1.1 EMR Routine Patient Care



DISABILITY ASSESSMENT

- Assess level of consciousness appropriate for age.
- For suspected spinal injuries, provide manual stabilization of head and neck.

ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT INTERCEPT

- When indicated in protocol, call for Paramedic intercept if available. If Paramedic intercept is unavailable, call for AEMT intercept, if available.

SECONDARY/FOCUSED ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT

- Obtain chief complaint, history of present illness, and prior medical history.
- Complete a physical assessment as appropriate for the patient's presentation.
- Refer to appropriate protocol(s) for further treatment options.
- Determine level of pain.
- Dress and bandage lacerations and abrasions.
- Cover evisceration with a sterile dressing to prevent heat loss.
- Maintain normal body temperature.
- Stabilize impaled objects. Do not remove an impaled object unless it interferes with CPR or your ability to maintain the patient's airway.
- Monitor vital signs at least every 15 minutes (at least every 5 minutes if the patient is unstable).

MAJOR MULTIPLE SYSTEM TRAUMA

- Patients that meet trauma criteria must be expeditiously moved into the trauma system to maximize the likelihood of survival. (See [Trauma Triage and Transport Decision Protocol 8.18.](#))
- Minimize scene time to less than 10 minutes post-extrication.
- On scene field measures should be limited to the primary assessment, rapid trauma assessment, hemorrhage control, CPR, manual stabilization of spine, and airway maneuvers.

CIRCUMSTANCES NOT COVERED UNDER STATEWIDE EMS PROTOCOLS

- It is impossible to write a protocol for every potential situation. In rare instances where the patient's best interests may not be specifically addressed in a protocol, **contact on-line Medical Direction.**
- Please note that while medical direction can have some variation from facility to facility, on-line Medical Direction may not direct providers to practice outside their scope of practice, and likewise, providers should not ask to perform procedures outside their scope of practice as defined within these protocols.



EMR SCOPE OF PRACTICE

It is understood that emergency medical responders will function up to their scope of practice outlined by the National EMS Scope of Practice Model using the Vermont EMT-level protocols and American Heart Association guidelines for Healthcare Provider CPR.

- Airway Management – Adult & Pediatric (See [Airway Management Protocol -- Adult 5.1A](#) or [Airway Management Protocol – Pediatric 5.1P.](#))
 - BVM
 - Cleared, Opened
 - Oral Suctioning
 - Oropharyngeal Airway
 - Oxygen Administration
 - Naloxone Intranasal
- Cardiac Management – Adult & Pediatric (See [Cardiac Arrest Protocol – Adult 3.2A](#) or [Cardiac Arrest Protocol – Pediatric 3.2P.](#))
 - CPR – Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
 - Defibrillation – AED



Protocol Continues

EMR SCOPE OF PRACTICE (Continued)

- Other Skills
 - Anaphylaxis: May assist patient with use of patient's own epinephrine auto injector.
 - Burn Care (See [Burns/Electrocution/Lightening Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 4.0.](#))
 - Childbirth (See [Obstetrical Emergencies Protocol 2.16](#))
 - Cold / Hot Pack (See [Musculoskeletal Injuries Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 4.3.](#))
 - Cervical and Spinal Motion Restriction – Manual Stabilization Only (See [Advanced Spinal Assessment Procedure 6.0.](#))
 - Extremity Hemorrhage (See [Tourniquet & Hemostatic Agent Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 6.7.](#))
 - Nerve Agent Autoinjectors (See [Nerve Agent/Organophosphate Poisoning Protocol – Adult 2.12A](#) or [Nerve Agent/Organophosphate Poisoning Protocol – Pediatric 2.12P.](#))
 - Splinting – Manual Stabilization Only (See [Musculoskeletal Injuries Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 4.3.](#))
 - Wound Care (See [Musculoskeletal Injuries Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 4.3.](#))

RESPIRATORY REFERENCE TABLES



Bag-Valve-Mask Ventilation (BVM) Rates		
Patient	Basic Airway	Supraglottic/ETT*
Adult	10 – 12 breaths per minute	6 – 10 breaths per minute
Child	12 – 20 breaths per minute	8 – 10 breaths per minute
Infant	20 – 30 breaths per minute	8 – 10 breaths per minute

* Ventilation rates should be titrated to goal EtCO₂, if available, or patient conditions (e.g. severe asthma, aspirin overdose, traumatic brain injury).

Signs and Symptoms of Pediatric Respiratory Distress or Failure	
Pediatric Respiratory Distress	Pediatric Respiratory Failure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to maintain adequate oxygenation by using extra effort to move air. • Symptoms include increased respiratory rate, sniffing position, nasal flaring, abnormal breath sounds, head bobbing, intercostal retractions, mild tachycardia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hallmarks of respiratory failure are respiratory rate less than 20 breaths per minute for children <6 years old; less than 12 breaths per minute for children <16 years old; and >60 breaths per minutes for any child; cyanosis, marked tachycardia or bradycardia, poor peripheral perfusion, decreased muscle tone, mottling, and depressed mental status.
Respiratory distress in children and infants must be promptly recognized and aggressively treated as patient may decompensate quickly.	



Abnormal Pediatric Vital Signs

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≥ 2 yrs - 4 yrs	> 140	> 40	< 70 + (age in yrs x 2)	< 36 or > 38.5
≥ 4 yrs - 6 yrs	> 140	> 34	< 70 + (age in yrs x 2)	< 36 or > 38.5
≥ 6 yrs - 10 yrs	> 140	> 30	< 70 + (age in yrs x 2)	< 36 or > 38.5
≥ 10 yrs - 13 yrs	> 100	> 30	< 90	< 36 or > 38.5
≥ 13 yrs	> 100	> 16	< 90	< 36 or > 38.5



When a child tires and is unable to maintain adequate oxygenation, respiratory failure occurs and may lead to rapid cardiac arrest.

1.2 Extended Care Guidelines

When Vermont's EMS providers treat patients in remote or difficult environments and ambulance transport to hospital care is significantly delayed, it may be necessary to provide extended patient care. Extended care applies to any low resource setting where access to definitive care is delayed or impossible. This may be due to a remote location or infrastructure destruction.

Extended care patients may require repeat administration of medications beyond what is specified in regular protocols or assistance with administration of the patient's prescribed medication. In an extended care environment, EMS providers will follow the following guidelines:

1. Every effort should be made to contact medical direction for guidance. 
2. If medical direction is unavailable, it is reasonable to administer repeat medication dosing at the same intervals as prescribed in protocol or as prescribed for patient's own medications. Caution must be used due to cumulative effects that may result in over-sedation, hypotension, respiratory depression, etc.
3. If changes to regular protocol are necessary for medication use in extended care situations, these changes appear in the specific protocol under a separate Extended Care Section denoted by an 
4. Interventions performed during extended care circumstances must remain within the provider's scope of practice.

Special circumstances to consider in an extended care environment:

- Protecting patient from the environment while awaiting extrication and/or transport. This may require an improvised shelter and insulation to protect the patient and providers from rain, snow and wind.
- Requesting additional resources/personnel early if an extended care call is suspected.
- Oral fluids to maintain a patient's hydration and high energy foods to maintain caloric requirements, if the patient is conscious and able to swallow.
- Limited resources due to difficulty accessing patient and/or transporting equipment to the patient's location. These resources may include:
 - Oxygen
 - Suction
 - Cardiac Monitor/AED
 - Pulse Oximetry
 - Capnography
 - Glucose Meter
 - BP Cuff and Stethoscope
 - Intravenous access
 - Medications
 - Communication with online medical direction

Abdominal Pain (Non Traumatic) – 2.0A Adult

EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Abdominal history and physical exam.
- Maintain the patient NPO (nothing by mouth).
- Allow patient to assume a position of comfort.
- Acquire and transmit 12-lead ECG, if available, for patients age ≥ 40 .
- Minimize scene time.
- If patient has uncontrolled pain, unstable vital signs, or signs and symptoms of an acute abdomen, call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- Establish IV access
- See [Nausea/Vomiting Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 2.11](#).
- If patient is hypotensive, see [Shock Protocol – Adult 2.21A](#).
- Contact **Medical Direction** for additional fluid orders.



PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- See [Pain Management Protocol – Adult 2.17A](#).
- Assess and monitor the cardiac rhythm, treat as indicated.

PEARLS:

- Obtain complete abdominal history
 - History of pain (OPQRST)
 - History of recent trauma
 - History of nausea/vomiting (color, bloody, coffee grounds)
 - History of bowel movement (last BM, diarrhea, bloody, tarry)
 - History of urine output (painful, dark, bloody)
 - History of prior abdominal surgery
 - History of acute onset of back pain
 - History last menses in female/vaginal bleeding/pelvic pain
 - History of anticoagulant medication
 - SAMPLE history
- Abdominal physical assessment:
 - Ask the patient to point to the area of pain (palpate this area last).
 - Gently palpate for tenderness, rebound tenderness, distention, rigidity, guarding, and pulsatile masses. Also palpate the flank for CVA (costovertebral angle) tenderness.
 - An acute abdomen is rigid with guarding, distension, and diffuse tenderness and may indicate a surgical emergency. An acute abdomen can be caused by many things including the following: appendicitis, cholecystitis, duodenal ulcer perforation, diverticulitis, abdominal aortic aneurysm, kidney infection, urinary tract infection, kidney stone, ectopic pregnancy, pelvic inflammatory disease or pancreatitis.

2.0P Abdominal Pain (Non-Traumatic) – Pediatric



EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Abdominal history and physical exam.
- Maintain the patient NPO (nothing by mouth).
- Allow patient to assume a position of comfort.
- Minimize scene time.
- If patient has uncontrolled pain, unstable vital signs, or signs and symptoms of an acute abdomen, call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- Establish IV access.
- If patient is hypotensive, see [Shock Protocol – Pediatric 2.21P](#).
- Contact **Medical Direction** for additional fluid orders.



PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- See [Pain Management Protocol – Pediatric 2.17P](#).
- See [Nausea/Vomiting Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 2.11](#).

Medical Protocol 2.0P

PEARLS:

- Obtain complete abdominal history
 - History of pain (OPQRST)
 - History of recent trauma
 - History of nausea/vomiting (color, bloody, coffee grounds)
 - History of bowel movement (last BM, diarrhea, bloody, tarry)
 - History of urine output (painful, dark, bloody)
 - History of prior abdominal surgery
 - History of acute onset of back pain
 - History last menses in female, if applicable/vaginal bleeding/pelvic pain
 - SAMPLE history
- Abdominal physical assessment:
 - Ask the patient to point to the area of pain (palpate this area last).
 - Gently palpate for tenderness, rebound tenderness, distention, rigidity, guarding, and pulsatile masses. Also palpate the flank for CVA (costovertebral angle) tenderness.
 - An acute abdomen is rigid with guarding, distension, and diffuse tenderness and may indicate a surgical emergency. An acute abdomen can be caused by many things including the following: appendicitis, cholecystitis, bowel obstruction, kidney infection, urinary tract infection, kidney stone, ectopic pregnancy, pelvic inflammatory disease, pancreatitis or constipation.

Adrenal Insufficiency

Adult & Pediatric

2.1

Medical Protocol 2.1

EMT STANDING ORDERS – ADULT & PEDIATRIC

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Obtain history of underlying condition.
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS – ADULT & PEDIATRIC

A

- Assist the patient/caregiver in giving the patient his or her own medications, as prescribed.

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDER – ADULT & PEDIATRIC

P

- Establish IV access and administer stress dose hydrocortisone to patient that meets criteria below:
 - **Adult:** History of adrenal insufficiency; administer:
 - Hydrocortisone 100 mg IV/IO/IM (preferred) **OR**
 - Methylprednisolone 125 mg IV/IO/IM **OR**
 - Dexamethasone 10 mg IV/IO/IM.
 - **Pediatric:** History of adrenal insufficiency; administer:
 - Hydrocortisone 2 mg/kg IV/IO/IM (max dose 100 mg) (preferred) **OR**
 - Methylprednisolone 2 mg/kg IV/IO/IM (maximum dose 125 mg) **OR**
 - Dexamethasone 0.6 mg/kg IV/IO/IM/PO (maximum dose 10 mg).



PARAMEDIC EXTENDED CARE ORDERS – ADULT & PEDIATRIC

X

- After the stress dose, continue to administer hydrocortisone every 6 hours:
 - **Adult:** 100 mg IV/IO/IM every 6 hours.
 - **Pediatric:** 2 mg/kg IV/IO/IM every 6 hours to a maximum single dose of 100mg.
- In patients with the following signs and symptoms consider the need for repeat stress dosing:
 - Nausea, vomiting, weakness, dizzy, abdominal pain, muscle pain, dehydration, hypotension, tachycardia, fever, mental status changes.
- Additional Considerations:
 - Aggressive volume replacement therapy.
 - Vasopressors may be needed to treat refractory hypotension, see [Shock Protocol – Adult 2.21A](#) or [Shock Protocol – Pediatric 2.21P](#).
 - Treat for hypoglycemia, see [Diabetic Emergencies \(Hypoglycemia\) Protocol – Adult 2.8A](#) or [Diabetic Emergencies \(Hypoglycemia\) Protocol – Pediatric 2.8P](#).
 - Normalize body temperature.

PEARLS:

Adrenal insufficiency results when the body does not produce the essential life-sustaining hormones cortisol and aldosterone, which are vital to maintaining blood pressure, cardiac contractility, water, and salt balance.

Chronic adrenal insufficiency can be caused by a number of conditions:

- Congenital or acquired disorders of the adrenal gland.
- Congenital or acquired disorders of the pituitary gland.
- Long-term use of steroids (COPD, asthma, rheumatoid arthritis, and transplant patients).

Acute adrenal insufficiency can result in refractory shock or death in patients on a maintenance dose of hydrocortisone (SoluCortef)/prednisone who experience illness or trauma and are not given a stress dose and, as necessary, supplemental doses of hydrocortisone.

PEARLS:

A “stress dose” of hydrocortisone should be given to patients with **known chronic adrenal insufficiency** who have the following illnesses/injuries:

- Shock (any cause).
- Fever >100.4°F and ill-appearing.
- Multi-system trauma.
- Submersion injury.
- Environmental hyperthermia or hypothermia.
- Multiple long-bone fractures.
- Vomiting/diarrhea accompanied by dehydration.
- Respiratory distress.
- 2nd or 3rd degree burns >5% BSA
- RSI (Etomidate may precipitate adrenal crisis).

2.2A Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis – Adult

EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- For anaphylaxis administer: (anterolateral thigh preferred administration site)
 - Adult epinephrine autoinjector 0.3 mg IM **OR**
 - Epinephrine (**1:1,000**) (**1 mg/mL**): Administer 0.3 mg (0.3 mL) IM.
 - Contact **Medical Direction** for additional dosing.
- Do not delay transport. (Patients receiving epinephrine must be transported.)
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- May repeat epinephrine 0.3 mg IM every 5 - 15 min as needed for continued symptoms (maximum 3 doses.) For additional dosing, contact **Medical Direction**.
- Establish IV access. Administer 500-1000 mL bolus 0.9% NaCl for SBP < 90 mmHg.
- For bronchospasm, consider the administration of albuterol 2.5 mg via nebulizer. May repeat every 5 minutes for continued symptoms **OR**
- Ipratropium 0.5 mg and albuterol 2.5 mg via nebulizer (DuoNeb). May repeat every 5 minutes (maximum 3 doses). Contact **Medical Direction** for additional dosing.

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- For anaphylaxis refractory to IM epinephrine, consider epinephrine infusion 2 – 10 mcg/min, titrated to effect (infusion pump required).
- Diphenhydramine 25 – 50 mg IM/IV/IO to treat pruritus.

PARAMEDIC EXTENDED CARE ORDERS

X

- If symptomatic, consider:
- Methylprednisolone 1 mg/kg IV (max 125 mg) every 6 hours **OR**
- Dexamethasone 0.6 mg/kg IV/IO/IM/PO (maximum dose 10 mg)
- Diphenhydramine 25 – 50 mg PO. May repeat every 4-6 hours as needed (maximum dose of 300 mg/24 hours).



- To administer Epinephrine via syringe, EMTs must be credentialed through the Ready-Check-Inject Program.
- **CAUTION:** Epinephrine is available in different routes and concentrations. Providers are advised to re-check the dosing and concentration prior to administration.
- In anaphylaxis, epinephrine should not be delayed by taking the time to administer second-line medications such as diphenhydramine.

PEARLS:

- Known/likely allergen exposure **AND** hypotension or respiratory compromise, **OR**
- Systemic allergic reaction (multi-system), including two or more of the following:
 - Respiratory distress
 - Airway compromise/impending airway compromise
 - Wheezing/stridor
 - Swelling of lips, tongue, or any airway structures
 - Throat tightness
 - Difficulty or inability swallowing
 - Widespread hives, itching, swelling, flushing
 - Gastrointestinal symptoms: vomiting, abdominal pain
 - Altered mental status, syncope, cyanosis, delayed capillary refill or decreased level of consciousness associated with known or suspected allergic reaction
 - Signs of shock [Shock Protocol – Adult 2.21A](#).
- Do not delay transport for other than epinephrine administration.
- Patients can present with anaphylaxis without a prior history of allergy.
- Wheezing may be caused by anaphylaxis but it is not the only sign.
- Consider patients with history of asthma as having a high risk of anaphylaxis.



Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis – 2.2P

Pediatric

EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- For anaphylaxis, administer: (anterolateral thigh preferred administration site)
 - **Pediatric** epinephrine autoinjector 0.15 mg IM for patients less than 25 kg, 0.3 mg IM for patients greater than 25 kg **OR**
 - Epinephrine (**1:1,000**) (**1 mg/mL**): Administer 0.15 mg (0.15 mL) IM for patients less than 25 kg, 0.3 mg (0.3 mL) IM for patients greater than 25 kg.
 - Contact **Medical Direction** for additional dosing.
- Do not delay transport. (Patients who receive epinephrine must be transported.)
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- Epinephrine (**1:1,000**) (**1 mg/mL**): Administer 0.01 mg/kg (0.01 mL/kg) IM (max single dose 0.3 mg).
 - May repeat epinephrine every 5 – 15 min as needed for continued symptoms. (Maximum 3 doses.) Contact **Medical Direction** for additional dosing.
- For bronchospasm, consider administration of albuterol 2.5 mg via nebulizer x 1 dose **OR** ipratropium 0.5 mg and albuterol 2.5 mg via nebulizer (DuoNeb). May repeat every 5 – 15 minutes (maximum 3 doses). Contact **Medical Direction** for additional dosing.
- Establish IV access. Administer 20 mL/kg bolus 0.9% NaCl if hypotension. May repeat x 2 as needed.

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- For anaphylaxis refractory to IM epinephrine, consider epinephrine infusion. Infuse 0.1 – 1 micrograms/kg/minute via pump until symptoms resolve.
- Diphenhydramine 1 mg/kg PO/IV/IM/IO to treat pruritis (maximum dose 50 mg).

PARAMEDIC EXTENDED CARE ORDERS

X

If symptomatic, consider:

- Methylprednisolone 1 mg/kg IV (max 125 mg) every 6 hours if symptomatic **OR**
- Dexamethasone 0.6 mg/kg IV/IO/IM/PO (maximum dose 10 mg).
- Diphenhydramine 1.25 mg/kg PO. May repeat every 4-6 hours as needed (maximum dose of 50 mg).



- To administer Epinephrine via syringe, EMTs must be credentialed through the Ready-Check-Inject Program.
- **CAUTION:** Epinephrine is available in different routes and concentrations. Providers are advised to re-check the dosing and concentration prior to administration.
- In anaphylaxis, epinephrine should not be delayed by taking the time to administer second-line medications such as diphenhydramine.

PEARLS:

- Known/likely allergen exposure **AND** hypotension or respiratory compromise, **OR**
- Systemic allergic reaction (multi-system), including two or more of the following:
 - Respiratory distress
 - Airway compromise/impending airway compromise
 - Wheezing/stridor
 - Swelling of lips, tongue, or any airway structures
 - Throat tightness
 - Difficulty or inability swallowing
 - Widespread hives, itching, swelling, flushing
 - Gastrointestinal symptoms: vomiting, abdominal pain
 - Altered mental status, syncope, cyanosis, delayed capillary refill or decreased level of consciousness associated with known or suspected allergic reaction
 - Signs of shock [Shock Protocol – Pediatric 2.21P](#).
- Do not delay transport for other than epinephrine administration.
- Patients can present with anaphylaxis without a prior history of allergy.
- Wheezing may be caused by anaphylaxis but it is not the only sign.
- Consider patients with history of asthma as having a high risk of anaphylaxis.

2.3A Altered Mental Status (Unknown Etiology) – Adult

EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Administer oxygen to maintain O₂ saturation ≥ 94%.
- Assist inadequate ventilations with BVM (bag-valve-mask ventilation).
- Anticipate and avoid aspiration.
- Obtain glucose reading via glucometer.
- If blood glucose < 60 with associated altered mental status, refer to [Diabetic Emergencies \(Hypoglycemia\) Protocol – Adult 2.8A](#).
- If the patient's mental status and respiratory effort are severely depressed, consider restraint and administer:
 - A single spray of NARCAN® Nasal Spray (4mg) into one nostril. May repeat every 3 – 5 minutes if no response or if patient relapses to a maximum of 12 mg **OR**
 - Naloxone 1 mg (1 mL) per nostril via atomizer for a maximum of 2 mg. May repeat every 3 – 5 minutes if no response to a maximum of 12 mg.
 - Patients given naloxone should be transported to emergency department for further evaluation.
- Acquire and transmit 12-lead ECG if available.
- If trauma can be excluded, transport patient in the coma/recovery position. If trauma suspected, see [Advanced Spinal Assessment Protocol 6.0](#).
- Perform stroke assessment. Refer to [Stroke Protocol – Adult 2.23](#) as indicated.
- If suspect overdose, consider contacting Poison Control at (800) 222-1222 for consultation.
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.
- Minimize scene time.

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- Establish IV/IO access.
- For severe respiratory depression, administer naloxone 0.4 – 2 mg IV/IM/IO/SQ/intranasal
 - Consider restraint. See [Restraints Procedure 6.5](#).
 - Titrate to response.
 - If no response, may repeat initial dose every 3 – 5 minutes to a total of 12 mg.
- If hypoglycemia, administer dextrose. See [Diabetic Emergencies \(Hypoglycemia\) Protocol – Adult 2.8A](#).
- If hyperglycemic, give 500 mL bolus 0.9% NaCl IV/IO. See [Diabetic Emergencies \(Hyperglycemia\) Protocol – Adult 2.7A](#).
- If respiratory arrest, manage airway with OPA/NPA and maintain oxygenation and ventilations with BVM (bag-valve-mask ventilation). Advanced airway as indicated.
- If hypotensive (SBP <90), administer fluid bolus 500 mL 0.9% NaCl IV/IO. Contact **Medical Direction** for additional fluid or medication orders.



PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- Advanced airway management.
- Assess and monitor cardiac rhythm. Treat as indicated per appropriate protocol.
- If suspect toxicology, refer to [Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose Protocol – Adult 2.18A](#).
- If hypotension persists after 2 liter fluid bolus, consider vasopressors. See [Shock Protocol – Adult 2.21A](#).
- If patient is violent or agitated, consider restraint. See [Behavioral Emergencies Including Suicide Attempts & Threats Protocol 2.5](#).

PEARLS:

- Altered mental status may be caused by many factors including the following: stroke, drug overdose, infection, hypoglycemia, hyperglycemia or trauma.
- AEMT or Paramedic may titrate use of naloxone in patients with respiratory depression to avoid transition to combative behavior by patient.
- Use appropriate discretion regarding immediate intubation of patients who may quickly regain consciousness, such as hypoglycemic patients after administration of dextrose, or opiate overdose cases after administration of naloxone.



Altered Mental Status (Unknown Etiology) – Pediatric 2.3P

EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Administer oxygen to maintain O₂ saturation ≥ 94%.
- Assist inadequate ventilations with BVM (bag-valve-mask ventilation).
- Anticipate and avoid aspiration.
- Obtain glucose reading via glucometer.
- If blood glucose < 60 with associated altered mental status, refer to [Diabetic Emergencies \(Hypoglycemia\) Protocol – Pediatric 2.8P](#).
- If the patient's mental status and respiratory effort are severely depressed:
 - Administer a single spray of NARCAN® Nasal Spray (4mg) into one nostril **OR**
 - Administer via atomizer:
 - **Infant & Toddler:** Naloxone 0.5 mg (0.5 mL) per nostril for a total of 1 mg.
 - **Small Child and Larger:** Naloxone 1 mg (1 mL) per nostril for a maximum of 2 mg.
 - For both, may repeat every 3 – 5 minutes if no response to a maximum of 12 mg.
 - Patients given naloxone should be transported to emergency department for further evaluation.
- If trauma can be excluded, transport patient in the coma/recovery position. If trauma suspected, see [Advanced Spinal Assessment Protocol 6.0](#).
- If suspect overdose, consider contacting Poison Control at (800) 222-1222 for consultation.
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If unavailable, call for AEMT intercept.
- Minimize scene time.

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- Establish IV/IO access.
- If hypoglycemia, administer dextrose. See [Diabetic Emergencies \(Hypoglycemia\) Protocol – Pediatric 2.8P](#).
- If hyperglycemia, administer 10 mL/kg bolus of 0.9% NaCl IV/IO. See [Diabetic Emergencies \(Hyperglycemia\) Protocol – Pediatric 2.7P](#).
- For severe respiratory depression, administer naloxone 0.1 mg/kg IV/IO/IM/SQ/intranasal, max dose 2 mg.
 - Consider restraint. See [Restraints Procedure 6.5](#).
 - If no response, may repeat initial dose every 3 – 5 minutes to a total of 12 mg.
- If respiratory arrest, manage airway with OPA/NPA and maintain oxygenation and ventilations with BVM (bag-valve-mask ventilation). Advanced airway as indicated.
- If hypotensive per age-based tables, administer fluid bolus 20 mL/kg 0.9% NaCl IV/IO. May repeat x2.
 - Contact **Medical Direction** for additional fluid or medication orders.



PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- Advanced airway management.
- Assess and monitor cardiac rhythm. Treat as indicated per appropriate protocol.
- If suspect toxicology, refer to [Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose Protocol – Pediatric 2.18P](#).
- If hypotension persists after 60 mL/kg fluid bolus, consider vasopressors, see [Shock Protocol – Pediatric 2.21P](#).
- If patient is violent or agitated, consider sedation. See [Behavior Emergencies Including Suicide Attempts & Threats Protocol 2.5](#).

PEARLS:

- Altered mental status may be caused by many factors including the following: stroke, drug overdose, infection, hypoglycemia, hyperglycemia, or trauma.
- AEMT or Paramedic may titrate use of naloxone in patients with respiratory depression to avoid transition to combative behavior by patient.
- Use appropriate discretion regarding immediate intubation of patients who may quickly regain consciousness, such as hypoglycemic patients after administration of dextrose, or opiate overdose cases after administration of naloxone.

2.4A Asthma/COPD/RAD – Adult

EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Place patient in position of comfort. May prefer sitting up.
- Attempt to keep oxygen saturation $\geq 94\%$ (90% in COPD); increase the oxygen rate with caution and observe for fatigue, decreased mentation, and respiratory failure.
- Assist the patient with their metered dose inhaler (MDI): 4 puffs. May repeat every 5 minutes (max 3 doses). Contact **Medical Direction** for additional dosing.
 - MDI containing either albuterol, levalbuterol, a combination of albuterol/ipratropium bromide or other bronchodilator/rescue inhaler.
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.



ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- Consider:
 - Ipratropium bromide 0.5 mg and albuterol 2.5 mg (DuoNeb) via nebulizer. May repeat every 5 minutes for continued symptoms (maximum 3 doses) **AND/OR**
 - Albuterol 2.5 mg via nebulizer. May repeat every 5 minutes for continued symptoms.
- For patients who do not respond to treatments, or for impending respiratory failure, continue nebulizers and consider CPAP up to a maximum of 10 – 15 cm H₂O pressure support. (Use of CPAP requires additional training and credentialing.) See [Continuous Positive Airway Pressure \(CPAP\) Procedure 5.3](#).
- For patients who do not respond to treatments, or for impending respiratory failure, consider epinephrine autoinjector 0.3 mg IM (preferred) **OR** epinephrine (1:1,000) (1 mg/mL) 0.3 mg (0.3 mL) IM. Contact **Medical Direction** for additional doses.
- Consider IV access.



PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- Consider steroid:
 - Methylprednisolone 125 mg IV/IO/IM **OR**
 - Dexamethasone 10 mg IV/IO/IM/PO
- For patients who do not respond to treatments, or for impending respiratory failure, consider:
 - Magnesium sulfate 2 g in 50 mL D₅W or 0.9% NaCl IV/IO over 10 minutes.

EXTENDED CARE ORDERS

X

- Albuterol metered-dose inhaler (MDI) 2 – 4 puffs. May repeat every 5 minutes for continued symptoms.



Caution is advised in the administration of beta-agonists to patients with coronary artery disease. Obtain and transmit ECG if possible. Contact **Medical Direction** for medication orders if in doubt.

PEARLS:

- IVs should only be placed when there are clinical concerns of dehydration, in order to administer fluids, or when administering IV medications.
- Beware of patients with a “silent chest” (absence of breath sounds) as this may indicate severe reactive airway disease (RAD) with bronchospasm and impending respiratory failure.
- Remember that not all wheezing is caused by asthma and that not all asthmatics wheeze.
- Patients with congestive heart failure may present with lung sounds that mimic asthma (“cardiac wheeze”).

Asthma/Bronchiolitis/RAD/ Croup – Pediatric

2.4P

Medical Protocol 2.4P

ASTHMA, BRONCHIOLITIS, CROUP – EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Attempt to keep O₂ saturation ≥ 94%; increase the oxygen rate with caution and observe for fatigue, decreased mentation, and respiratory failure.
- For suspected asthma, assist the patient with his/her metered dose inhaler (MDI): 4 puffs.
 - May repeat every 5 minutes (maximum 3 doses). Contact **Medical Direction** for additional dosing.
 - MDI contains either albuterol, levalbuterol or a combination of albuterol/ipratropium.
- For patients ≤ 2 years old who present with increased work of breathing and rhinorrhea, provide nasal suctioning with saline drops and bulb syringe.
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.

ASTHMA – ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- Consider ipratropium 0.5 mg and albuterol 2.5 mg (DuoNeb) via nebulizer. May repeat dose every 5 minutes for continued symptoms. (Maximum 3 doses.) **AND/OR**
- Consider albuterol 2.5 mg via nebulizer every 5 minutes.
- For impending respiratory failure, continue nebulizers and consider CPAP (see [Continuous Positive Airway Pressure Procedure 5.3](#)).
- For patients who do not respond to treatments, or for impending respiratory failure, consider epinephrine auto injector 0.15 mg IM for patient less than 25 kg or 0.3 mg IM for patient greater than 25 kg **OR** epinephrine (1:1,000) (1 mg/mL) 0.01 mg/kg (0.01 mL/kg) IM, anterolateral thigh preferred (maximum single dose: 0.3 mg.) Contact **Medical Direction** for additional dosing.

ASTHMA – PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- Consider:
- Dexamethasone 0.6 mg/kg PO/IV/IO/IM (PO preferred) (maximum dose 10 mg) **OR**
 - Methylprednisolone 2 mg/kg IV/IO/IM (maximum dose 125 mg).
- For patients who do not respond to treatment or for impending respiratory failure, consider:
- Magnesium sulfate 40 mg/kg IV/IO in 100 mL D₅W over 20 minutes. (maximum single dose 2 grams).

BRONCHIOLITIS – PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

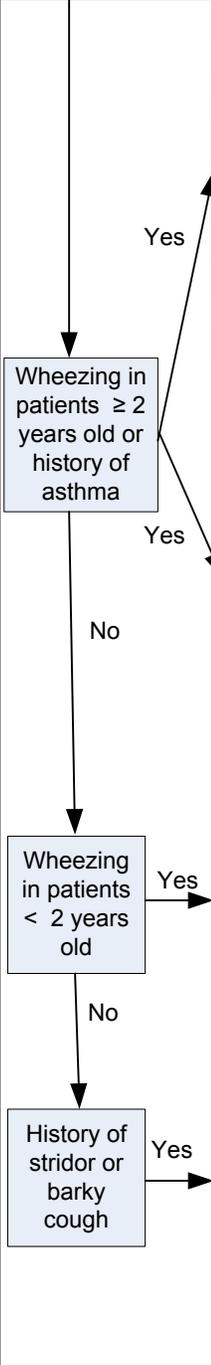
P

- Consider suctioning.
- For patients who do not respond to suctioning or for impending respiratory failure, consider epinephrine (1:1,000) (1 mg/mL) 3 mg (3 mL) in 3 mL 0.9% NaCl via nebulizer.
 - Contact **Medical Direction** for additional dosing.

CROUP – PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- Consider:
- Dexamethasone 0.6 mg/kg IV/IO/IM/PO. PO preferred. Maximum dose 10 mg.
- Croup with stridor at rest:
- Epinephrine (1:1,000) (1 mg/mL) 3 mg (3 mL) in 3 mL 0.9% NaCl via nebulizer. Repeat every 5 – 15 minutes for continued symptoms. (Maximum 3 doses.) Contact **Medical Direction** for additional dosing.



Procedure Continues

2.4P

Asthma/Bronchiolitis/RAD/ Croup – Pediatric

← Procedure Continued

Consider differential diagnosis:

- Asthma
- Pneumonia (See CPAP for respiratory failure)
- Bronchiolitis
- Anaphylaxis (See Anaphylaxis Protocol 2.)
- Croup
- Sepsis (See Sepsis Protocol)
- Foreign body airway obstruction



- Respiratory distress in children must be promptly recognized and aggressively treated. Respiratory arrest is the most common cause of cardiac arrest in children.
- Child with a “silent chest” may have severe bronchospasm with impending respiratory failure.

Medical Protocol 2.4P

PEARLS

- The IV formulation of dexamethasone may be given by mouth.
- For suspected epiglottitis, transport the patient in an upright position and limit your assessment and interventions

Bronchiolitis

- Incidence peaks in 2-6 month old infants.
- Frequent history of low-grade fever, runny nose, and sneezing.
- Signs and symptoms include: tachypnea, rhinorrhea, wheezes and / or crackles.

Croup

- Incidence peaks in children over age 6 months.
- Signs and symptoms include: hoarseness, barking cough, inspiratory stridor, signs of respiratory distress.
- Avoid procedures that will distress child with severe croup and stridor at rest.

Pneumonia

- Signs and symptoms include: tachypnea, fever, intercostal retractions, cough, hypoxia and chest pain.

Tachypnea in children is defined as:

- < 2 months: 60 bpm
- 2-12 months: 50 bpm
- 1-5 years: 40 bpm
- >5 years: 20 bpm

Behavioral Emergencies 2.5

Including Suicide Attempts & Threats

EMT/ADVANCED STANDING ORDERS – ADULT & PEDIATRIC

E/
A/
P

- Routine Patient Care.
- Approach patient using the SAFER Model.
- Observe and record the patient's behavior.
- Consider associated domestic violence or child abuse, see [Response to Domestic Violence Policy 8.16](#).
- Determine if patient is under the care of mental health professionals and record contact information.
- Assess for risk to self and others. Ask patient directly if he/she is thinking about hurting self or others.
- A patient who is a danger to self or others may not refuse care. If patient refuses care and requires medical care or is danger to self or others, contact police and, if available, the local mental health crisis agency. (Refer to [Police Custody Policy 8.14](#) and/or [Refusal of Care Policy 8.15](#))
- If the patient does not appear to be an immediate threat to self or others and refuses transport:
 - Encourage patient to seek mental health evaluation.
 - Provide the mental health center emergency services number 1-800-273-TALK.
 - Avoid leaving the patient alone, if possible. Assist in contacting responsible family/friend.
- For patient with suspected Excited/Agitated Delirium:
 - See [Restraint Procedure 6.5](#).
 - Treat hyperthermia, see [Hyperthermia \(Environmental\) Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 2.9](#).
 - Monitor cardiac activity (**Paramedic only**) and oxygen levels.
- If physical restraint is required, make sure adequate personnel are present. This generally means four people, one for each of the patient's extremities.
 - If physical restraints are used and patient continues to be violent/agitated, call for Paramedic intercept if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept. Refer to [Restraint Procedure 6.5](#).
- Establish an airway, maintain as indicated, suction as needed.
- Treat other injuries and illnesses.
- If the patient is at risk for suicide or violence towards others:
 - Transport to a hospital for evaluation.
 - If patient refuses transport, contact law enforcement and, if available, the local mental health crisis agency for assistance.



SAFER Model

- S** Stabilize the situation by lowering stimuli, including voice.
- A** Assess and acknowledge crisis by validating patient's feelings and not minimizing them.
- F** Facilitate identification and activation of resources (clergy, family, friends, or police).
- E** Encourage patient to use resources and take actions in his/her best interest.
- R** Recovery/referral - leave patient in the care of a responsible person, professional or transport to appropriate medical facility. Do not leave the patient alone when EMS clears the scene.



- **Excited/Agitated Delirium is characterized by extreme restlessness, irritability, and/or high fever. Patients exhibiting these signs are at high risk for sudden death.**
- **Medications should be administered cautiously in frail or debilitated patients; lower doses should be considered.**
- **Monitor airway and vital signs closely.**

PEARLS:

Consider all possible medical / trauma causes for behavior and treat appropriately:

- Hypoglycemia
- Hypoxia
- Head Injury, stroke, seizure postictal
- Poisoning, substance abuse, drug, alcohol
- Infection

2.6 Brief Resolved Unexplained Event (BRUE)

EMT/ADVANCED/PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

E/
A/
P

- Obtain a history of present illness.
 - Who observed the event?
 - Determine the severity, nature, and duration of the episode.
 - Was the patient awake or sleeping at the time of the episode?
 - Include details of the resuscitation, if applicable.
- Obtain a past history of chronic disease (including seizures), current or recent infection, gastroesophageal reflux, recent trauma, medications, new or different mixture of formula.
 - Obtain gestational history.
- Perform a comprehensive physical exam including neurological assessment.
- Measure and record temperature (rectal temperature preferred).
- Keep the child warm and transport to hospital.
- **Contact Medical Direction for assistance if the parent/guardian refuses medical care and/or transport.**



PEARLS:

A BRUE involves a frightening episode in a child less than 1 years old and involves some combination of apnea, color change, limpness, or choking. This condition was first referenced as ALTE – Acute Life-Threatening Event.

Note: Although children who experience BRUE may have a normal physical exam upon assessment by prehospital personnel, they should be transported to the emergency department for further assessment and treatment as they often have a serious underlying condition. Assume history provided by the family/witness is accurate.

Diabetic Emergencies (Hyperglycemia) – Adult

2.7A

Hyperglycemic emergency is defined as blood glucose greater than or equal to 250 mg/dL and associated signs and symptoms, such as altered mental status, increased respiratory rate, or dehydration.

EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Obtain glucose reading via glucometer.
- Call for Paramedic intercept; if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.

ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

A/P

- Establish IV access.
- Administer 1,000 mL bolus of 0.9% NaCl IV/IO . Reassess and administer 1,000 mL of 0.9% NaCl IV/IO, if indicated.
- For nausea/vomiting, see [Nausea/Vomiting Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 2.11](#).

EMT/ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC EXTENDED CARE ORDERS

X

- Oral fluids: if the patient is not vomiting, provide oral hydration with water.
 - Patient must be alert enough to swallow and protect airway.

Medical Protocol 2.7A

PEARLS:

- Diabetic ketoacidosis is a life-threatening emergency defined as uncontrolled hyperglycemia and the signs and symptoms of ketoacidosis.
- Signs and symptoms of diabetic ketoacidosis include uncontrolled blood glucose greater than 250 mg/dL, weakness, altered mental status, abdominal pain, nausea, and vomiting, polyuria (excessive urination) polydipsia (excessive thirst), a fruity odor on the breath (from ketones) and tachypnea.
- Common causes of diabetic ketoacidosis include infection, acute coronary syndrome and medication non-compliance.
- Hyperglycemic Hyperosmolar Nonketotic Syndrome (HHNS) is characterized by blood glucose levels greater than 600 mg/dL and profound dehydration with significant neurologic deficits (e.g., coma, altered mental status).
- Hyperglycemia may be detrimental to patients at risk for cerebral ischemia such as victims of stroke, cardiac arrest and head trauma.

Diabetic Emergencies (Hyperglycemia) – Pediatric



Hyperglycemic emergency is defined as blood glucose greater than or equal to 250 mg/dL and associated signs and symptoms, such as altered mental status, increased respiratory rate, or dehydration.

EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Obtain glucose reading via glucometer.
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.

ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

A/P

- Establish IV access.
Administer **10 mL/kg** bolus of 0.9% NaCl IV/IO.
 - Contact **on-line Medical Direction** for additional fluid bolus orders.



EMT/ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC EXTENDED CARE ORDERS

X

- Oral fluids: if the patient is not vomiting, provide oral hydration with water.
 - Patient must be alert enough to swallow and protect airway.

PEARLS:

- Use 10 mL/kg fluid bolus to avoid potential risk of cerebral edema.
- Diabetic ketoacidosis is a life-threatening emergency defined as uncontrolled hyperglycemia and the signs and symptoms of ketoacidosis.
- Signs and symptoms of diabetic ketoacidosis include uncontrolled blood glucose greater than 250 mg/dL, weakness, altered mental status, abdominal pain, nausea, and vomiting, polyuria (excessive urination) polydipsia (excessive thirst), a fruity odor on the breath (from ketones) and tachypnea.
- Common causes of diabetic ketoacidosis include infection, acute coronary syndrome and medication non-compliance.
- Hyperglycemic Hyperosmolar Nonketotic Syndrome (HHNS) is characterized by blood glucose levels greater than 600 mg/dL and profound dehydration with significant neurologic deficits (e.g., coma, altered mental status).
- Hyperglycemia may be detrimental to patients at risk for cerebral ischemia such as victims of stroke, cardiac arrest and head trauma.

Diabetic Emergencies (Hypoglycemia) – Adult

2.8A

Hypoglycemic emergency is defined as blood glucose less than 60 mg/dL and associated signs and symptoms, such as altered mental status.

EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Obtain glucose reading via glucometer.
- Oral glucose: administer 1 – 2 tubes of commercially prepared glucose gel, or 15 – 30 mL (1 – 2 tablespoons) of Pure Vermont Maple Syrup, or equivalent, for standard dose of 15 – 30 grams sugar. Patient must be alert enough to swallow and protect airway.
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.
- For patients with an insulin pump who are hypoglycemic with associated altered mental status (GCS<15):
 - Stop the pump or remove catheter at insertion site if patient cannot ingest oral glucose or ALS is not available.
 - Leave the pump connected and running if able to ingest oral glucose or receive ALS interventions.
- **Do not treat and release hypoglycemic patients without contacting Medical Direction to discuss cause of hypoglycemic episode, interventions taken and plan for follow-up.**



ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

A/P

- Establish IV access.
- Administer up to 25 grams dextrose 10% (preferred) or dextrose 50% IV. Recheck glucose 5 minutes after administration.
 - May repeat up to 25 grams dextrose 10% or 50% IV if glucose level is <60 mg/dl with continued altered mental status.
- If unable to establish IV access, administer glucagon 1 mg IV/IM. Recheck glucose 15 minutes after administration of glucagon.
 - May repeat glucagon 1 mg IV/IM if glucose level is <60 mg/dl with continued altered mental status.

 **AEMT/Paramedic: If patient has a severe hypoglycemic emergency with altered mental status or active seizures and the provider is unable to establish IV access, the provider may administer dextrose via intraosseous (IO). See [Intraosseous Access Procedure 6.3](#).**

 Dextrose 10% is the preferred formulation for administration. A sterile IV bag containing 250 mL of D₁₀W will deliver the standard dose of 25 grams of glucose IV. Bolus up to the entire 250 mL bag as quickly as possible, stopping when patient's mental status returns to baseline and glucose level is ≥ 60 mg/dl. Often only 100 – 200 mLs of dextrose 10% is necessary.

PEARLS:

- There are no statistically significant differences in the median recovery time to a GCS score of 15 following administration of D10% versus D50%. D10% could benefit patients in controlling their post-treatment high blood sugar levels.
- Causes of hypoglycemia include medication misuse or overdose, missed meal, infection, cardiovascular insults (e.g., myocardial infarction, arrhythmia), or changes in activity (e.g., exercise)
- Diabetics are not the only persons who become hypoglycemic. Alcoholics, some poisoned patients, and others may develop problems of glucose metabolism.
- Sulfonylureas (e.g., glyburide, glipizide) toxicity can last up to 72 hours. Patients with corrected hypoglycemia who are taking these agents are at particular risk for recurrent hypoglycemia and frequently require hospital admission. These patients should be evaluated in the Emergency Department.
- When administering dextrose, monitor IV site for signs of extravasation.



Hypoglycemic emergency is defined as blood glucose less than 60 mg/dl with associated altered mental status.

EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Obtain glucose reading via glucometer.
- Oral glucose: administer 1 tube of commercially prepared glucose gel, or 15 mL (1 tablespoon) of Pure Vermont Maple Syrup, or equivalent. Patient must be alert enough to swallow and protect airway.
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.
- For patients with an insulin pump who are hypoglycemic with associated altered mental status (GCS<15):
 - Stop the pump or remove catheter at insertion site if patient cannot ingest oral glucose or ALS is not available.
 - Leave the pump connected and running if able to ingest oral glucose or receive ALS interventions.
- **Do not treat and release hypoglycemic patients without contacting Medical Direction to discuss cause of hypoglycemic episode, interventions taken and plan for follow-up.**



ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

A/P

- Establish IV access.
- Administer 10% dextrose IV, dosing per length-based resuscitation tape or 5 mL/kg. Recheck glucose 5 minutes after administration of dextrose.
 - May repeat dextrose dose if glucose level is <60 mg/dl with continued altered mental status.
 - If unable to obtain IV access, administer glucagon. Recheck glucose 15 minutes after administration of glucagon.
 - Patients <20 kg (44 lb), give glucagon 0.5 mg IM.
 - Patients >20 kg (44 lb), give glucagon 1 mg IM.

Pediatric Dextrose Dosing Chart

Length (cm)	Weight (kg)	Color (Age)	Volume of Dextrose 10% (mL)
< 59.5	3 to 5	Gray (0-3 months)	20
59.5-66.5	6 to 7	Pink (3-6 months)	35
66.5-74	8 to 9	Red (7-10 months)	43
74-84.5	10 to 11	Purple (11-18 months)	50
84.5-97.5	12 to 14	Yellow (19-35 months)	60-80
97.5-110	15 to 18	White (3-4 years)	80
110-122	19 to 22	Blue (5-6 years)	100
122-137	24 to 30	Orange (7-9 years)	135
137-150	30 to 40	Green (10-12 years)	180



AEMT/Paramedic: If patient has a severe hypoglycemic emergency with altered mental status or active seizures and the provider is unable to establish IV access, the provider may administer dextrose 10% via intraosseous (IO). See [Intraosseous Access Procedure 6.3](#).

PEARLS:

- Causes of hypoglycemia include medication misuse or overdose, missed meal, infection, cardiovascular insults, trauma, traumatic brain injury, hypothermia, adrenal insufficiency, or changes in activity (e.g., exercise).
- When administering dextrose, monitor IV site for signs of extravasation.

Hyperthermia (Environmental) – Adult & Pediatric

2.9

EMT STANDING ORDERS – ADULT & PEDIATRIC

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Move victim to a cool area and shield from the sun or any external heat source.
- Remove as much clothing as is practical and loosen any restrictive garments.
- If alert and oriented, give small sips of cool liquids.
- Diagnosis of hyperthermia is based on clinical signs. Determine patient's core temperature, if possible (rectal temperature preferred).
- Monitor and record vital signs and level of consciousness.
- If temperature is $>40^{\circ}\text{C}$ (104°F) or if altered mental status is present, begin active cooling by:
 - Continually misting the exposed skin with tepid water while fanning the victim (most effective).
 - Utilize ice bath, if available.
 - Truncal ice packs may be used, but are less effective than evaporation.
 - Discontinue active cooling if shivering occurs or cannot be managed by paramedics (see below), or temperature $< 38.9^{\circ}\text{C}$ (102°F).
- If altered mental status, check finger stick blood glucose.
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS – ADULT

A

- Establish IV access.
- Administer 500 mL 0.9% NaCl IV fluid bolus for dehydration even if vital signs are normal.

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS – ADULT

P

- If uncontrolled shivering occurs during cooling:
 - Midazolam 2.5 mg IV/intranasal, may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR** 5 mg IM may repeat once in 10 minutes **OR**
 - Lorazepam 1 mg IV, may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR** 2 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes **OR**
 - Diazepam 2 mg IV, may repeat once in 5 minutes.

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS – PEDIATRIC



- Administer 20 mL/kg 0.9% NaCl IV fluid bolus for dehydration even if vital signs are normal.
- If uncontrolled shivering occurs during cooling:
 - Midazolam 0.1 mg/kg IV/IM **OR** 0.2 mg/kg intranasal (single maximum dose 1mg) (Note: a 5 mg/mL concentration is recommended for intranasal administration.) **OR**
 - Lorazepam 0.1 mg/kg IV/IM (single maximum dose 1 mg) **OR**
 - Diazepam 0.2 mg/kg IV **OR** 0.5 mg/kg PR (single maximum dose 2 mg IV **OR** 4 mg PR).

Hyperthermia:

- PO and other non-core thermometers may be inaccurate when the temperature is outside the normal range.
- Elevated temperature may be due to environmental exposure, pharmacologic agents, or excited (agitated) delirium, see also [Behavioral Emergencies Including Suicide Attempts & Threats Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 2.5](#), [Septic Shock Protocol - Adult 2.20A](#), [Septic Shock Protocol - Pediatric 2.20P](#), [Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose Protocol – Adult 2.18A](#) or [Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose Protocol – Pediatric 2.18P](#). Mortality and morbidity are directly related to the length of time the victim is subject to the heat stress.
- Sweating (or lack of sweating) is an unreliable indicator of the severity of heat illness.
- Of primary concern are the patient's vital signs and mental status.
- The patient's baseline health status and medications greatly determine the likelihood of developing and recovering from heat illness.
- The very young and very old are at greatest risk of heat illness.
- For events with high risk of hyperthermia, consider having an ice bath available on scene. See [Vermont Incident Scene and Training Rehabilitation Guidelines for EMS - Appendix 8](#).

2.10 Hypothermia (Environmental) – Adult & Pediatric

Consider hypothermia if patient has a history of cold exposure or a disease that predisposes them to hypothermia, patient's trunk feels cold on examination, or core temperature is $< 35^{\circ}\text{C}$ (95°F).

EMT STANDING ORDERS - ADULT & PEDIATRIC

E

- Routine Patient Care. Ensure scene safety.
- Classify hypothermia clinically on the basis of vital signs, level of consciousness and intensity of shivering. Core temperature, if available, provides additional information (see chart).
- Handle gently. Maintain patient in horizontal position. Continue rewarming during transport. Warm ambulance to 24°C (75.2°F) if possible.
- Prevent further heat loss using insulation and vapor barrier. Move to a warm, sheltered environment. Gently remove (cut off) wet clothing and dry patient.
- Obtain blood glucose. Support shivering with calorie replacement if alert and able to swallow.
- Mildly hypothermic patients should not be allowed to stand or walk for 30 minutes, while being kept as warm as possible with calorie replacement and shelter.
- Patients with moderate to severe hypothermia require active external rewarming with chemical, electrical, or forced-air heating packs/blankets. Active rewarming is also beneficial for mild hypothermia.
- Assess patient for signs of life and pulse carefully for a minimum of 60 seconds to confirm respiratory arrest or cardiac arrest.
- If pulse and breathing are present, continue rewarming techniques.
- **If pulse and breathing are absent, start CPR unless contraindications to CPR exist.**
 - Contraindications to CPR in the hypothermic patient include: Obvious signs of irreversible death, chest wall not compressible as whole body is frozen solid, a valid DNR order, avalanche burial > 35 minutes and airway packed with snow, or rescuers exhausted or in danger.
 - Rigor mortis or fixed and dilated pupils are **NOT** a contraindication to CPR in hypothermia.
- **Hypothermic patients without contraindications to CPR should have continued CPR and should not be considered for Termination of Resuscitation (TOR) until the core temperature has been rewarmed to 32°C (90°F) with no ROSC.**
 - Contraindications to prolonged CPR include patients who are thought to have cardiac arrest before cooling (temperature is thought to have been above 32°C (90°F) at the time of cardiac arrest). Causes of cardiac arrest before cooling include major trauma, witnessed normothermic arrest and avalanche burial < 35 mins.
- Transport patient to closest appropriate hospital. **Patients with prehospital cardiac instability (systolic blood pressure < 90 mm Hg or ventricular arrhythmias, core temperature $< 28^{\circ}\text{C}$ (82°F) and those in cardiac arrest should be transported directly to a center capable of providing cardiopulmonary bypass (CPB) or extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), if feasible.**
- CPR may be delayed or given intermittently if necessary to accomplish evacuation.

ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

A/P

- Establish IV/IO access.
- Administer warm IV 0.9% NaCl 40°C - 42°C (104°F - 107.6°F) in 500 mL boluses.
- Provide airway management as required. With advanced airway, ventilate at half standard rate.
- Administer dextrose IV/IO if hypoglycemic.
- Continue CPR if indicated:
 - If $< 30^{\circ}\text{C}$ VT or VF or AED advises shock: one shock at maximum power.
 - Warm $1-2^{\circ}\text{C}$ or $> 30^{\circ}\text{C}$ prior to additional shocks.
 - No vasoactive drugs until 30°C or above. From $30-35^{\circ}\text{C}$, increase dosing interval to twice as long as normal. Consider epinephrine 1 mg IV/IO, up to 3 doses.
 - Contact **Medical Direction** for guidance.



Protocol Continues

Hypothermia (Environmental) – 2.10

Adult & Pediatric

Protocol Continues

Clinical Presentation	Approximate Core Temperature	Ability to rewarm without external methods	Classification
Cold Sensation Shivering	>35°C (95° F)	Good	Not Hypothermic
	35°- 32°C (95°-90° F)	Good	Mild
Altered Mental Status. < 30°C (86°F) Shivering stops Loss of consciousness	32°- 28°C (90°-82°F)	Limited	Moderate
Vitals Signs reduced. Severe risk of VF with rough handling	<28°C (82°F)	Unable	Severe
Vitals Signs usually absent Spontaneous VF or Cardiac Arrest (asystole)	<24°C (77°F)	Unable	Severe

Pearls

- A rapid assessment of the patient's core temperature may be performed by placing a warm ungloved hand against the skin of a patient's back, or chest. If the skin feels warm, hypothermia is unlikely. Measure core temperature using an esophageal thermometer inserted into the lower third of the esophagus (intubated patient), with a rectal thermometer (after patient removed from cold environment), or with an epitympanic thermometer designed for field use. Oral thermometers may only rule out hypothermia.
- Hypothermic patients are often significantly dehydrated, and may require repeat fluid boluses.
- Absence of vital signs, rigor mortis, dependent lividity or fixed and dilated pupils may be present in patients with reversible hypothermia and are not a contraindication to CPR. Assume that a hypothermic patient can be resuscitated even if there is an absence of vital signs, any sign of life, rigor mortis, or fixed and dilated pupils.
- Detecting a pulse in a patient with hypothermia may be difficult. Signs of life and pulse should be checked carefully for 60 seconds. Persistent breathing or movement by the patient should prompt a strategy of watchful waiting, but if no signs of life are detected, then cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) should be started. Since metabolic needs are so low in severely hypothermic patients, a rate of only a few beats per minute is enough to provide adequate perfusion to vital organs. In such cases, it is better to attempt to maintain effective cardiac activity than to start CPR and cause VF.
- Owing to the decrease in cerebral oxygen requirements with cooling, survival without neurologic impairment may be possible even when it is necessary to perform CPR for hours. Transportation to CPB/ECMO capable facilities with continuing CPR may be justified if hypothermia is present or suspected. Contact destination hospital in advance to ensure availability of CPB/ECMO.
- Immediate continuous CPR is recommended for cardiac arrest due to primary severe hypothermia. Mechanical chest-compression devices should be used when available and CPR-interruptions avoided. If this is not possible, CPR can be delayed or performed intermittently. Based on available data, a patient with a core temperature <28°C or unknown with unequivocal hypothermic cardiac arrest, evidence supports alternating 5 min CPR and ≤5 min without CPR. With core temperature <20°C, current evidence supports alternating 5 min CPR and ≤ 10 min without CPR. If field conditions are not amenable to the safe application of delayed or intermittent CPR, contact **Medical Direction** to consider Termination of Resuscitation.
- If a patient with cardiac arrest due to hypothermia is rewarmed to a core body temperature that is higher than 32°C and asystole persists, irreversible cardiac arrest is very likely, and termination of CPR should be considered.
- A severely elevated serum potassium level is associated with non-survival and is considered a marker of hypoxia before cooling. Termination of CPR should be considered when the potassium level is higher than 12mmol/L.
- A hypothermic patient should be assessed for coexisting injuries or illnesses that may mimic or conceal the signs and symptoms of hypothermia. The use of vital signs, mental status and presence or absence of shivering may be unreliable if the patient has another condition that coexists with hypothermia. Many conditions such as hypoglycemia, alcohol intoxication and exhaustion can cause altered mental status and can decrease or abolish shivering. A heart rate higher than expected for a given level of hypothermia may be due to another cause such as traumatic blood loss.

EMT STANDING ORDERS – ADULT & PEDIATRIC

E

- Routine Patient Care.

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS – ADULT

A

- Consider Ondansetron 4 mg PO/ODT (oral dissolving tablets). May give IV solution by oral route.
- Establish IV access if patient appears dehydrated..
- Consider 500 mL 0.9% NaCl IV fluid bolus for dehydration.
 - May repeat 250 mL IV bolus if transport exceeds 15 minutes and patient's condition has not improved.

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS – ADULT

P

- Ondansetron 4 mg IV/IM **OR**
- Prochlorperazine 5 – 10 mg IV, or 5 mg IM **OR**
- Metoclopramide 5 mg IV.
 - May repeat any of the above medications once after 10 minutes if nausea/vomiting persists.
- Apply ECG; monitor for arrhythmia.



Antidote: For dystonic reactions caused by EMS administration of prochlorperazine or metoclopramide, administer diphenhydramine 25 – 50 mg IV/IM.

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS – PEDIATRIC



- Ondansetron 2 mg ODT for patient 8-15 kg, 4 mg ODT patient \geq 16 kg **OR**
- Ondansetron 0.1 mg/kg IV (maximum single dose 4mg).
- Consider 20 mL/kg IV fluid bolus for dehydration.

PARAMEDIC EXTENDED CARE ORDERS – ADULT & PEDIATRIC

X



- For motion sickness: consider diphenhydramine:
 - **Adult:** 25 mg PO/chewed
 - **Ages 2 – 5 years:** 6.25 mg PO
 - **Ages 6 – 11 years:** 12.5 - 25 mg PO
- **Paramedic only:** May repeat IM prochlorperazine or metoclopramide every 4 - 6 hours as needed.



Nausea, vomiting and epigastric abdominal pain may be signs of acute coronary syndrome in adults. Consider obtaining and transmitting ECG, if available.

PEARLS:

- To reduce incidence of dystonic reactions, administer prochlorperazine and metoclopramide slowly, over 1-2 minutes.
- Consider other causes of nausea such as the following: cardiac, GI bleeding, pregnancy, toxicologic, diabetes.
- Nausea/vomiting is a common finding associated with acute coronary syndrome. Consider obtaining 12-lead ECG when appropriate.

EMT/ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

E/A

- Routine Patient Care.
- Consider contacting Poison Control at (800) 222-1222 as soon as practical for consultation.
- Assess for SLUDGEM (Salivation, Lacrimation, Urination, Defecation, Gastric upset, Emesis, Muscle twitching/miosis (constricted pupils) and KILLER Bs (Bradycardia, Bronchorrhea, Bronchospasm).
- Remove to cold zone after decontamination and monitor for symptoms.
- Antidotal therapy should be started as soon as symptoms appear.
- All antidote auto-injections must be administered IM.

Determine dosing according to the following symptom assessment and guidelines.

Category	Description/Examples	Autoinjector Dose
Mild	If TWO (2) or more of the following are present: Blurred vision/miosis (pupil constriction), excessive teary eyes, excessive runny nose, increased salivation, chest tightness/dyspnea, tremors/twitching, nausea/vomiting, wheezing/coughing/secretions, acute stomach cramps, tachycardia, bradycardia	1 DuoDote (or MARK I kit); Monitor patient every 10 minutes
Worsening	If at any time after the first dose the patient develops any additional symptoms, or if symptoms worsen	2 DuoDotes (or 2 Mark I kits); Monitor patient every 10 minutes.
Severe	If ANY of the following are present: Strange/confused behavior, severe difficulty breathing/copious airway secretions, severe muscle twitching, involuntary urination/defecation, convulsions, loss of consciousness, respiratory arrest	3 DuoDotes (or 3 Mark I kits) AND 1 diazepam 10 mg auto-injector.

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- If symptoms persist after the administration of 3 DuoDote kits (or MARK I kits) and field conditions permit:
 - Initiate cardiac monitoring.
 - Establish IV access.
 - Atropine 2 mg IV/IO; repeat every 5 minutes until excess secretions cease (stop).
 - Pralidoxime 1 – 2 gram IV.
 - Reconstitute pralidoxime 1 gram vial with 20 mL sterile water for injection.
 - Dilute reconstituted pralidoxime 1 gram in 100 mL of 0.9% NaCl (may dilute 1-2 grams in this manner).
 - Infuse over 5 minutes (1 gram dose) to 10 minutes (2 gram dose).
 - Diazepam 5 mg IV every 5 minutes **OR** 10 mg IM **OR** diazepam auto-injector (10 mg) every 10 minutes, as needed.

Instead of diazepam, may use either:

 - Lorazepam 1 mg IV may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR** 2 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes **OR**
 - Midazolam 2.5 mg IV/intranasal every 5 minutes **OR** 5 mg IM every 10 minutes as needed.

PARAMEDIC MEDICAL DIRECTION – MAY CONSIDER:

- Pralidoxime maintenance infusion:
 - Reconstitute pralidoxime 1 gram vial with 20 mL of sterile water for injection (SWFI) or 0.9% NaCl.
 - Dilute reconstituted pralidoxime 1 gram in 100 mL of 0.9% NaCl.
 - Infuse 1 gram over 15-30 minutes. Maximum of 12 grams/day.

EMT/ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

E/A

- Routine Patient Care.
- Consider contacting Poison Control at (800) 222-1222 as soon as practical for consultation.
- Assess for SLUDGEM (Salivation, Lacrimation, Urination, Defecation, Gastric upset, Emesis, Muscle twitching/miosis (constricted pupils) and KILLER Bs (Bradycardia, Bronchorrhea, Bronchospasm).
- Remove to cold zone after decontamination and monitor for symptoms.
- Antidotal therapy should be started as soon as symptoms appear.
- All antidote auto-injections must be administered IM.



Determine dosing according to the following symptom assessment and guidelines.

Length (cm)	Weight (kg)	Color (Age)	Atropine Dose – MILD and SEVERE	Pralidoxime Dose MILD	Pralidoxime Dose SEVERE
< 59.5	3 to 5	Gray (0-3 months)	0.25 mg IM	60 mg IM	Give 3 MILD doses in rapid succession IM. If symptoms persist, may repeat series 1 hour after last IM injection.
59.5 to 66.5	6 to 7	Pink (3-6 months)		100 mg IM	
66.5 to 74	8 to 9	Red (7-10 months)		125 mg IM	
74 to 84.5	10 to 11	Purple (11-18 mos)		150 mg IM	
84.5 to 97.5	12 to 14	Yellow (19-35 mos)	0.5 mg IM	200 mg IM	
97.5 to 110	15 to 18	White (3-4 years)		250 mg IM	
110 to 122	19 to 22	Blue (5-6 years)		300 mg IM	
122 to 137	24 to 30	Orange (7-9 years)	1 mg IM	400 mg IM	
137 to 150	30 to 40	Green (10-12 years)		500 mg IM	

*DuoDote (or MARK I kit) may be used for pediatric patients < 1 year old in a life-threatening situation with exposure symptoms when no pediatric doses of atropine or pralidoxime chloride are available.

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

- In the unlikely event that field conditions permit, follow weight-based dosing and treatment guidelines:
 - Initiate cardiac monitoring.
 - Establish IV access.
 - Atropine 0.05 – 0.1 mg/kg IV or IM (minimum dose of 0.1 mg, maximum single dose 5mg); repeat every 2 – 5 minutes as needed.
 - Pralidoxime 25 – 50 mg/kg IV (maximum dose 1 gram) or IM (maximum dose of 2 grams), may repeat within 30 – 60 minutes as needed, then again every hour for 1 – 2 doses as needed.
 - Diazepam 0.3 mg/kg IV (0.5 mg/kg per rectum) (maximum dose 10 mg), repeat every 5 – 10 minutes as needed.

Instead of diazepam, may use either:

- Lorazepam 0.1 mg/kg IV/IM (maximum dose 4 mg), repeat every 5 – 10 minutes as needed **OR**
- Midazolam 0.2 mg/kg IM/intranasal/IV, repeat every 5 – 10 minutes as needed.

PARAMEDIC MEDICAL DIRECTION – MAY CONSIDER:

- Pralidoxime maintenance infusion:
 - Reconstitute pralidoxime 1 gram vial with 20 mL of sterile water for injection (SWFI) or 0.9% NaCl.
 - Dilute reconstituted pralidoxime 50 mg/kg (maximum 1 gram) in 100 mL of 0.9% NaCl.
 - Infuse entire volume over 15-30 minutes.

P



EMT/ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

- For newborns requiring resuscitation, see [Newborn Resuscitation Protocol 2.14](#).
- Routine Patient Care—dry, warm, position, stimulate.
- Assess airway by positioning and clearing secretions (only if needed):
 - Place the newborn on back or side with head in a neutral or slightly extended position.
 - Routine suctioning is discouraged even in the presence of meconium-stained amniotic fluid. Suction oropharynx then nares only if the patient exhibits respiratory depression and/or obstruction, see [Newborn Resuscitation Protocol 2.14](#).
- Clamp and cut the umbilical cord:
 - After initial assessment and **after the cord stops pulsating but no less than 1 minute**.
 - Place the umbilical clamps approximately 8 and 10 inches from the baby.
- Prevent heat loss by rapidly drying and warming:
 - Remove wet linen, wrap newborn in blankets or silver swaddler (preferred) and cover newborn's head.
 - Consider placing newborn skin-to-skin on the mother's chest or abdomen.
- Assess breathing and stimulate by providing tactile stimulation:
 - Flick soles of feet and/or rub the newborn's back.
 - If newborn is apneic or has gasping respirations, nasal flaring, or grunting, proceed to [Newborn Resuscitation Protocol 2.14](#).
- Assess circulation, heart rate, and skin color:
 - Evaluate heart rate by one of several methods:
 - Auscultate apical beat with a stethoscope.
 - Palpate the pulse by lightly grasping the base of the umbilical cord.
 - If the pulse is <100 bpm and not increasing, proceed to [Newborn Resuscitation Protocol 2.14](#).
 - Assess skin color; examine trunk and face; and mucus membranes.
- Record APGAR score at 1 minute and 5 minutes (see chart) only if newborn does not require resuscitation. APGAR score is less important than assessment and intervention.
- See [Pediatric Color Coded Appendix A2](#) for vital signs.
- When possible, transport newborn in child safety seat. See [Pediatric Transportation Protocol 8.13](#).

E/A/P

	Feature	2 Points	1 Point	0 Points
APGAR Scale	Activity (Muscle Tone)	Active Movement	Arms and legs flexed (Weak, some movement)	Limp or flaccid
	Pulse	Over 100 bpm	Below 100 bpm	Absent
	Grimace (Irritability/reflexes)	Cry, sneeze, cough, active movement	Grimace (some flexion of extremities)	No reflexes
	Appearance (Skin Color)	Completely pink	Body pink, Extremities blue	Blue, pale
	Respiration	Vigorous cry Full breaths	Slow, irregular, or gasping breaths, weak cry	Absent

PEARLS:

- Newborn infants are prone to hypothermia which may lead to hypoglycemia, hypoxia and lethargy. Aggressive warming techniques should be initiated including drying, swaddling, and warm blankets covering body and head.
- Raise temperature in ambulance patient compartment.



EMT/ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

E/A

- Routine Patient Care—initial steps identified in [Newborn Care Protocol 2.13](#).
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.
- For premature infants, consider additional warming techniques, including newborn heating pad or wrapping the torso and extremities of the baby in food-grade or medical-grade plastic wrap.
- If the mouth or nose is obstructed or heavy secretions are present, suction oropharynx then nares using a bulb syringe or mechanical suction using the lowest pressure that effectively removes the secretions, not to exceed 120 mm Hg.
- If ventilations are inadequate, or if the chest fails to rise, or the heart rate is less than 100, initiate positive pressure (bag-valve-mask) ventilations at 40 – 60 breaths per minute.
 - Note: Resuscitation should be initiated with room air. Use oxygen if newborn is premature or low birth weight. If no response to resuscitation after 90 seconds, supplement with 100% oxygen.
 - Inflation pressures should be individualized to achieve an increase in heart rate or movement of the chest with each breath. Be aware that bag-valve-mask pop-off valves may deliver inconsistent results.
- After 30 seconds of ventilations, assess heart rate:
 - Auscultate apical beat with a stethoscope or palpate the pulse by lightly grasping the base of the umbilical cord.
- For heart rate <100, reassess ventilatory technique and continue ventilations.
- For heart rate <60 after attempts to correct ventilations:
 - Initiate CPR at a 3:1 ratio (for a rate of 90 compressions/minute and 30 ventilations/minute). Minimize interruptions. Reassess every 60 seconds; if not improving, continue CPR with 100% oxygen until recovery of a normal heart rate, then resume room air.

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- If bag valve mask ventilation is inadequate or chest compressions are indicated, intubate the infant using a 3.0 mm to 4.0 mm endotracheal tube. (For an infant born before 28 weeks gestation, a 2.5 mm endotracheal tube should be used.)
 - Meconium aspiration may be indicated if airway is obstructed.
 - After direct visualization, improvement in heart rate and EtCO₂ are the best indicators of whether the tube is properly placed in the trachea.
- Establish IV/IO access. Obtain blood sample if possible.
 - If hypovolemia is suspected, administer 10 mL/kg bolus 0.9% NaCl over 5 – 10 minutes.
 - If the heart rate fails to improve with chest compressions, administer epinephrine (**1:10,000**) (**0.1 mg/mL**) 0.01 – 0.03 mg/kg IV (0.1 – 0.3 mL/kg).
 - IV/IO is preferred route for epinephrine—if there is a delay in establishing access, may administer via ETT 0.05 to 0.1 mg/kg (**1:10,000**) (**0.1 mg/mL**).
 - If glucose level is <60 mg/dl:
 - Administer dextrose per [Pediatric Color Coded Appendix A2](#).

PEARLS:

- ALS NOTES: Flush all meds with 0.5 to 1.0 mL 0.9% NaCl or follow all ETT meds with positive-pressure ventilation.



EMT/ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

This protocol should be used for an imminent delivery prior to arrival at the hospital. Imminent delivery is evidenced by crowning at the vaginal opening.

- Routine Patient Care. Obtain OB history.
- Check for crowning. If there are no signs of crowning proceed with transport. If crowning is present prepare for delivery. Notify receiving facility.
- Uncomplicated labor and delivery does not require emergent transport.
- Place the mother in a comfortable, supine position. Place sterile drapes about the perineum.
- Prepare the OB kit and pediatric resuscitation equipment.
- Gently and carefully assist expulsion of the newborn from the birth canal in its natural descent. **Do not pull or push the newborn.** Prevent explosive delivery of the baby's head by placing your gloved hand on the baby's head.
- Upon complete presentation of newborn's head:
 - Instruct the mother to stop pushing.
 - Support the head. Bulb-suction the mouth then nostrils if obstructed.
 - Check to be certain the umbilical cord is not wrapped about the neck. Unwrap if necessary or if unable to remove apply two umbilical clamps and cut between the clamps to release the cord.
 - Once the newborn's airway is clear and the cord is free from around its neck, instruct the mother to push on her next contraction to complete delivery.
- For care of newborn see [Newborn Care Protocol 2.13](#). For newborns requiring resuscitation, see [Newborn Resuscitation Protocol 2.14](#).
- Following delivery of the newborn, the mother's vagina may continue to ooze blood. **Do not pull on the umbilical cord.**
- Apply firm continuous massage manually to the mother's lower abdomen (uterine fundus) to help reduce postpartum hemorrhage. Encourage breastfeeding if the mother prefers, as this will aid in the contraction of the uterus which will help stop the bleeding and facilitate delivery of the placenta.
- Do not attempt to examine the patient internally. Never pack the vagina to stop bleeding. Apply a sanitary napkin to the vaginal opening.
- If the placenta does deliver, preserve it in a plastic bag and transport it with the mother. Do not delay transport to wait for the placenta to deliver.

E/
A/
P

PEARLS:

- OB assessment:
 - Length of pregnancy.
 - Number of pregnancies.
 - Number of viable births.
 - Number of non-viable births.
 - Last menstrual period.
 - Due date.
 - Prenatal care.
 - Number of expected babies.
 - Stimulant or depressant drug use.

PEARLS:

- Signs of imminent delivery:
 - Membrane rupture or bloody show.
 - Contractions.
 - Urge to move bowels.
 - Urge to push.



EMT/ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

- Routine Patient Care. Place patient in left-lateral recumbent position unless otherwise noted.
- Expose as necessary to assess for bleeding/discharge, crowning, prolapsed cord, breech, limb presentation.
- Do not digitally examine or insert anything into the vagina.
 - Exceptions: fingers may be inserted to manage baby's airway in breech presentation or to treat prolapsed or nuchal cord.
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.
- **For the complications listed below, initiate transport immediately (emergently) to the closest medical facility.**

Prolapsed Cord (presentation of cord first)

- Place mother in knee-chest or supine position with pillows under the buttocks.
- Palpate cord for pulse. If pulse absent in the umbilical cord support infant head or body off of the cord while gently pushing the fetus into the uterus and pressing on the lower abdomen in an upward direction only enough to regain pulse.
- Do not attempt to push the cord back. Wrap cord in a warm, sterile-saline-soaked dressing.
- Transport emergently to closest hospital.

Breech Birth (presentation of legs or buttocks)

- **Do not pull on the newborn.** Support newborn and allow delivery to proceed normally.
- After delivery of torso, if head does not deliver within 3 minutes, place a gloved hand in the vagina with palm toward newborn's face forming a "V" with index and middle fingers on either side of the newborn's nose and push the vaginal wall away to create an airspace until delivery of the head. Suction as needed.
- Transport emergently to closest hospital while maintaining airspace for the newborn.

Limb Presentation

- Place mother in knee-chest or supine position with pillows under the buttocks.
- Transport emergently to closest hospital.

Shoulder Dystocia (shoulder(s) caught on pubic symphysis)

- Suspect shoulder dystocia if newborn's head delivers normally but then retracts back into the perineum because the shoulders are trapped (turtle sign).
- If this occurs, **do not pull on the newborn's head.**
- Position mother with buttocks dropped off end of stretcher and thighs flexed upward. Apply firm pressure with an open hand immediately above the pubic symphysis.
- If delivery does not occur, transport emergently to closest hospital.

Protocol Continues 

E/A



Protocol Continues

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- Establish IV access.
- Seizures—In the presence of seizures in the third trimester of pregnancy or postpartum, consider magnesium sulfate, 4 grams in 10 mL D5W or 0.9% NaCl slow IV push over 5 minutes. See [Seizures Protocol – Adult 2.19A](#).
- For severe postpartum hemorrhage after placental delivery, administer:
 - Oxytocin 10 Units IM.
- Tocolysis for preterm labor: 500 – 1,000 mL 0.9% NaCl IV bolus as needed.
 - Contraindications: gestation beyond 37 weeks



NOTIFY MEDICAL DIRECTION IF:

- Prepartum hemorrhage.
- Postpartum hemorrhage.
- Breech presentation.
- Limb presentation.
- Nuchal cord.
- Prolapsed cord.
- Cardiac arrest of mother.



PEARLS:

- Signs of preeclampsia:
 - Hypertension.
 - Headache.
 - Nausea.
 - Vomiting.
 - Visual changes.
 - Edema.

PEARLS:

- When resuscitating pregnant patients, manual left uterine displacement should be used during CPR as this technique is the most compatible with high-quality CPR as versus tilt method.

2.17A Pain Management – Adult

EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Have the patient rate his/her pain from 0 to 10, or use another appropriate pain scale. Document value each time pain is assessed.
- Non-pharmacological pain control: Use ample padding when splinting musculoskeletal injuries; consider the application of a cold pack for 30 minutes.
- If not contraindicated, consider acetaminophen 325 – 1000 mg PO, no repeat.
- For moderate to severe pain, call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not, call for AEMT intercept.



Contraindication of acetaminophen: Hypersensitive to acetaminophen or any component of the formulation; severe hepatic impairment or severe active liver disease. Avoid acetaminophen in patients with a history of alcohol abuse or who have taken medications containing acetaminophen within the past 4 hours.

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- Consider nitrous oxide:
 - Appropriate for patients with pain from isolated extremity injuries (suspected fractures) or global soft tissue injuries (i.e., burns or road rash).
 - **See contraindications.**
 - The patient must be able to self-administer this medication.
- Contact **Medical Direction** for guidance for pain of non-traumatic origin (not headache, abdominal or chest pain)



PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

Establish IV access.

For mild or moderate pain consider **one** of the following for pain control:

- Acetaminophen 1000 mg IV **OR**
- Ketorolac 15 mg IV or 30 mg IM (no repeat).
 - **See contraindications**, and contact **Medical Direction** for use of Ketorolac.
 - Consider as first-line agent for renal colic.



Contraindications to narcotics: GCS < 15 or mentation not appropriate for age, hypotension SBP < 100, SpO₂ < 90% on 15L O₂, hypoventilation, allergic to narcotics, or condition preventing administration (blocked nose or no IV). If no contraindications and pain scale ≥ 4, may consider narcotics.

For severe pain or pain refractory to above, consider one of the following: (Maintain SBP ≥ 100)

- Fentanyl (preferred first-line narcotic agent):
 - 25 – 100 mcg slow IV, every 2 – 5 minutes to a total of 300 mcg titrated to pain relief **OR**
 - 50 – 100 mcg IM/IN, every 5 minutes to a total of 300 mcg titrated to pain relief **OR**
- Morphine:
 - 2 – 5 mg IV/IM every 10 minutes to a total of 20 mg titrated to pain relief **AND/OR**
- Ketamine:
 - 0.25 mg/kg IV infusion (in 100 mL bag 0.9% NaCl **over 15 minutes**).
 - Consider lower 0.15 mg/kg dose for frail or elderly patients.



Antidote: For dysphoria (emergence reaction) caused by ketamine administer midazolam 1 - 2 mg IV/IM every 5 minutes as needed.

Antidote: For hypoventilation from opiate administration by EMS personnel, assist ventilations and administer naloxone 0.4 to 2.0 mg SQ/IV/IO/IM or 2.0 – 4.0 intranasal as needed.

For nausea: see [Nausea/Vomiting 2.11 Protocol](#).

Contact Medical Direction for guidance in patients with:

- Altered mental status or
- Additional doses of a medication, or
- Benzodiazepines administration alone or in conjunction with narcotic administration for patients with musculoskeletal spasms.



Policy Continues 

Pain Management – Adult 2.17A

Policy Continued

- Medications should be administered cautiously in frail, debilitated, or patients over 65 years of age; lower doses should be considered.
- Use caution for altered mental status, hypoventilation, hypotension, or allergy.

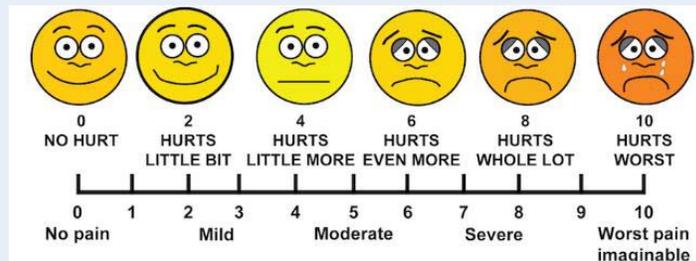
- Avoid ketorolac in patients with NSAID allergy, aspirin-sensitive asthma, renal insufficiency, pregnancy, or known peptic ulcer disease.

- Ketamine should be considered in patients with severe pain, hemodynamic compromise, pain refractory to opiates, patients on chronic opiate treatment, patients unresponsive to other medications and patients with history of substance use disorder and receiving medication assisted treatment (e.g. methadone, buprenorphine).
- Ketamine contraindicated in patients unable to tolerate hyperdynamic states such as those with known or suspected aortic dissection, myocardial infarction, and aortic aneurysm, and those that cannot tolerate hypertension.
- Avoid ketamine in patients with known schizophrenia.
- Ketamine may cause appearance of intoxication at higher doses. Dysphoria (emergence reaction) may occur as the medication effects wear off.

- Nitrous oxide is contraindicated for the following patients and conditions:
 - Any altered mental status/ inability to follow instructions
 - Pregnancy
 - Abdominal pain
 - Chest pain
 - Headache/migraine
 - Pneumothorax
 - Head injury, including concussion
 - Head or facial trauma preventing proper seal
 - Chest/thoracic trauma
 - Abdominal trauma
 - Diving injury
- Nitrous oxide may only be used if the patient has not received an opiate or ketamine.
- Use of Nitrous oxide requires approval of local **Medical Direction**, additional training, use of scavenger/ventilation fan and an open compartment window.

PEARLS:

- Place the patient in a position of comfort, if possible.
- Give reassurance, psychological support, and distraction.
- Avoid coaching the patient; simply ask them to rate his/her pain on a scale from 0 – 10, where 0 is no pain at all and 10 is the worst pain they have ever experienced.



- Reassess and document the patient's pain level and vital signs every 5 minutes.
- Narcotics are not recommended for first-line treatment of headache. Consult **Medical Direction**.
- EMS professionals should not attempt to differentiate between pain and drug-seeking behavior, which could lead to undertreatment of pain.

2.17P Pain Management – Pediatric



EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Assess pain severity. Consider all patients as candidates for pain management regardless of transport time.
- Have the patient rate his/her pain from 0 to 10, or Wong-Baker “faces” scale (appropriate for children ages 4-12):



- Document pain scale value each time assessed.
- Consider Paramedic intercept for moderate to severe pain (scale ≥ 4), if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- Consider nitrous oxide:
 - Appropriate for patients age ≥ 9 years with pain from isolated extremity injuries (suspected fractures) or global soft tissue injuries (i.e., burns or road rash).
 - The patient must be able to self-administer this medication.
- Nitrous oxide is contraindicated for the following patients and conditions:
 - Any altered mental status/ inability to follow instructions
 - Pregnancy
 - Abdominal pain
 - Chest pain
 - Headache/migraine
 - Pneumothorax
 - Head injury, including concussion
 - Head or facial trauma preventing proper seal
 - Chest/thoracic trauma
 - Abdominal trauma
 - Diving injury
- Note: Nitrous oxide may only be used if the patient has not received an opiate.
- Use of Nitrous oxide requires approval of local **Medical Direction**, additional training, and use of scavenger/ventilation fan.
- **Contact Medical Direction for guidance for:**
 - Patients under the age of 9 who do not meet any other contraindications
 - Pain of non-traumatic origin (not headache, abdominal or chest pain)



PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- Establish IV access.
 - Acetaminophen 15 mg/kg IV **OR** PO (maximum 1000 mg) **OR**
 - Assess patient for contraindications: GCS < 15 or mentation not appropriate for age, hypotension, SpO₂ $< 90\%$ on 15L O₂, hypoventilation, allergic to narcotics, condition preventing administration (blocked nose or no IV). If no contraindications may consider:
 - Fentanyl 1 mcg/kg IV/IM/IO/Intranasal (maximum initial dose 100 mcg). Administer slow over 2-3 minutes. (Fentanyl is preferred narcotic agent.) **OR**
 - Morphine 0.1 mg/kg IV/IO (maximum initial dose 10 mg). Administer slow over 2-3 minutes.
 - Reassess patient every 5 minutes. If no contraindications and patient still in moderate to severe pain may redose at 5 – 10 minute intervals at half the original dose to a total of 3 doses.
- Contact **Medical Direction** for guidance with all patients with multi-systems trauma or for requests to provide additional doses of a medication.



Antidote: For hypoventilation from opiate administration by EMS personnel, administer naloxone 0.1 mg/kg IV/IO/IM/SQ up to 2 mg total dose **OR** 2.0 – 4.0 mg intranasal.

Protocol Continues



Pain Management – Pediatric 2.17P



Face, Legs, Activity, Cry, Consolability (FLACC) Behavioral Scale			
Appropriate for children age 4 and below			
Categories	Scoring		
	0	1	2
Face	No particular expression or smile	Occasional grimace or frown, withdrawn, disinterested	Frequent to constant frown, clenched jaw, quivering chin
Legs	Normal position or relaxed	Uneasy, restless, tense	Kicking or legs drawn up
Activity	Lying quietly, normal position, moves easily	Squirming, shifting back and forth, tense	Arched, rigid or jerking
Cry	No cry (awake or asleep)	Moans or whimpers, occasional complaint	Crying steadily, screams or sobs, frequent complaints
Consolability	Content, relaxed	Reassured by occasional touching, hugging, or being talked to, distractable	Difficult to console or comfort

Each of the five categories is scored from 0 to 2, which results in a total score between 0 and 10.

EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Consider contacting Poison Control at (800) 222-1222 as soon as practical for consultation.
- For suspected opioid overdose with severe respiratory depression, administer:
 - A single spray of NARCAN® Nasal Spray (4mg) into one nostril. May repeat every 3 – 5 minutes if no response or if patient relapses to a maximum of 12 mg; **OR**
 - Naloxone 1 mg (1 mL) per nostril via atomizer for a maximum of 2 mg. May repeat every 3 – 5 minutes if no response to a maximum of 12 mg.
 - Patients given naloxone should be transported to emergency department for further evaluation.
- For suspected isolated cyanide poisoning, see [Smoke Inhalation Protocol - Adult 2.22A](#).
- For decontamination/hazardous materials exposure, see [Hazardous Materials Exposure 9.0](#).
- For hypoglycemia, see [Diabetic Emergencies \(Hypoglycemia\) Protocol - Adult 2.8A](#).
- For seizures, see [Seizure Protocol - Adult 2.19A](#).
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- For severe respiratory depression, administer naloxone 0.4 – 2 mg IV/IM/IO/SQ/ intranasal.
 - Establish IV access.
 - Consider restraint. See [Restraint Protocol 6.5](#).
 - Titrate to response.
 - If no response, may repeat initial dose every 3 – 5 minutes to a total of 12 mg.
- Ingested Poison:
 - Contact **Medical Direction** to consider activated charcoal 25 – 50 grams PO if ingestion is non-caustic substance, occurred within last 60 minutes, if patient is awake/alert, and protecting airway.



PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

Suggested Treatments

- Beta Blocker and Ca Channel Blocker, see [Bradycardia Protocol – Adult 3.1A](#).
- Dystonic Reaction:
 - Diphenhydramine 25 – 50 mg IV/IM
- Organophosphates, see [Nerve Agent/Organophosphate Protocol – Adult 2.12A](#).
- For severe agitation, seizures or hyperthermia:
 - Midazolam 2.5 mg IV/intranasal, may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR** 5 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes; **OR**
 - Lorazepam 1 mg IV, may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR** 2 mg IM may repeat once in 10 minutes; **OR**
 - Diazepam 2 mg IV, may repeat once in 5 minutes,
- Tricyclic with symptomatic dysrhythmias, (e.g., tachycardia and wide QRS > 110 ms):
 - Sodium bicarbonate 1 to 2 mEq/kg IV/IO.



This protocol is designed to provide general guidelines for treatment. Specific treatments or antidotes may be appropriate as directed by on-line **medical direction**. Consultation with Poison Control is encouraged.



PEARLS:

- If possible, bring container/bottles, and/or contents
- Pulse oximetry may NOT be accurate for toxic inhalational patients.

History

- Route, time, quantity and substance(s)
- Reason if known: intentional or accidental.

Protocol Continues 

Protocol Continued

Signs & Symptoms

- **Acetaminophen:** Initially normal or nausea/vomiting. If not detected and treated, may cause irreversible liver failure.
- **Anticholinergic:** Tachycardia, fever, dilated pupils, mental status changes.
- **Aspirin:** Abdominal pain, vomiting, pulmonary edema, tachypnea, fever, tinnitus and/or altered mental status. Renal dysfunction, liver failure, and/or cerebral edema among other things can take place later. Consider in elderly with altered mental status.
- **Cardiac Medications:** Dysrhythmias, altered mental status, hypotension, hypoglycemia.
- **Sedatives/Depressants:** Bradycardia, hypotension, decreased temperature, decreased respirations, pinpoint or non-specific pupils (miosis).
- **Dystonic Reaction:** Neurological movement disorder, in which sustained muscle contractions cause twisting and repetitive movements or abnormal postures. This may be induced by antipsychotics, such as haloperidol, or anti-emetics such as prochlorperazine or metoclopramide.
- **Akathisia:** May consist of feelings of anxiety, agitation, and jitteriness, as well as inability to sit still / pacing. This may be induced by antipsychotics, such as haloperidol, or anti-emetics such as prochlorperazine or metoclopramide.
- **Opioids:** Respiratory arrest or hypoventilation, evidence of opiate use (bystander report, drug paraphernalia, opioid prescription bottles, “track marks”), depressed mental status, miosis (constricted or “pinpoint” pupils).
- **Organophosphates:** Bradycardia, increased secretions, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, pinpoint pupils, SLUDGEM, BBB. See [Nerve Agent/Organophosphate Poisoning Protocol – Adult 2.12A](#)
- **Solvents:** Nausea, coughing, vomiting, and mental status change.
- **Sympathomimetic/Stimulants:** Tachycardia, hypertension, increased temperature, dilated pupils, anxiety, paranoia, diaphoresis. Examples are bath salts, cocaine, caffeine, methamphetamine, ecstasy, ADHD drugs, thyroid meds (rarely), albuterol.
- **Tricyclic (Cyclic):** Seizures, dysrhythmias, hypotension, decreased mental status or coma.



EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Consider contacting Poison Control at (800) 222-1222 as soon as practical for consultation.
- For suspected opioid overdose with severe respiratory depression:
 - Administer a single spray of NARCAN® Nasal Spray (4mg) into one nostril; **OR**
 - Administer via atomizer:
 - **Infant & Toddler:** Naloxone 0.5 mg (0.5 mL) per nostril for a total of 1 mg.
 - **Small Child and Larger:** Naloxone 1 mg (1 mL) per nostril for a maximum of 2 mg.
 - For both, may repeat every 3 – 5 minutes if no response to a maximum of 12 mg.
 - Patients given naloxone should be transported to emergency department for further evaluation.
- For suspected isolated cyanide poisoning, see [Smoke Inhalation Protocol - Pediatric 2.22P](#).
- For decontamination/hazardous materials exposure: refer to [Hazardous Materials Exposure 9.0](#).
- For hypoglycemia, see [Diabetic Emergencies \(Hypoglycemia\) Protocol – Pediatric 2.8P](#).
- For seizures, see [Seizures Protocol – Pediatric 2.19P](#).
- Call for Paramedic intercept if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.



ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- Establish IV access.
- For severe respiratory depression, administer naloxone 0.1 mg/kg IV/IO/IM/SQ/intranasal. Maximum initial dose 2 mg. Minimum initial dose 0.4 mg.
 - Consider restraint. See [Restraint Protocol 6.5](#).
 - If no response, may repeat initial dose every 3 - 5 minutes to a total of 12 mg.
- Ingested Poison:
 - Contact **Medical Direction** to consider activated charcoal per length-based resuscitation tape if ingestion is non-caustic substance and occurred within last 60 minutes and if patient is awake/alert and protecting airway.



PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

Suggested Treatments

- Beta Blocker and Ca Channel Blocker, see [Bradycardia Protocol – Pediatric 3.1P](#).
- Dystonic Reaction:
 - Diphenhydramine 0.5 mg/kg IV/IM up to maximum dose 50 mg.
- Narcotic:
 - Naloxone 0.1 mg/kg IV/IO/IM/SQ/intranasal. Maximum initial dose 2 mg. Repeat every 2 minutes as needed (maximum dose 12 mg).
- Organophosphates, see [Nerve Agent/Organophosphate Protocol – Pediatric 2.12P](#).
- Tricyclic with symptomatic dysrhythmias, (e.g., tachycardia and wide QRS > 110 ms):
 - Sodium bicarbonate 1 to 2 mEq/kg IV.



This protocol is designed to provide general guidelines for treatment. Specific treatments or antidotes may be appropriate as directed by on-line **Medical Direction**. Consultation with Poison Control is encouraged.



PEARLS:

- Possible, bring container/bottles, and/or contents
- Pulse oximetry may NOT be accurate for toxic inhalation patients.

HISTORY:

- Route, time, quantity and substance(s)
- Reason if known: intentional, accidental or criminal.

Protocol Continues



Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose – Pediatric

2.18P

Protocol Continued

Signs & Symptoms

- **Acetaminophen:** initially normal or nausea/vomiting. If not detected and treated, may cause irreversible liver failure.
- **Anticholinergic:** tachycardia, fever, dilated pupils, mental status changes.
- **Aspirin:** abdominal pain, vomiting, pulmonary edema, tachypnea, fever, tinnitus and/or altered mental status. Renal dysfunction, liver failure, and/or cerebral edema among other things can take place later.
- **Cardiac Medications:** dysrhythmias, altered mental status, hypotension, hypoglycemia.
- **Sedatives/Depressants:** bradycardia, hypotension, decreased temperature, decreased respirations, pinpoint or non-specific pupils (miosis).
- **Dystonic Reaction:** Neurological movement disorder, in which sustained muscle contractions cause twisting and repetitive movements or abnormal postures. This may be induced by antipsychotics, such as haloperidol, or anti-emetics such as prochlorperazine or metoclopramide.
- **Akathisia:** May consist of feelings of anxiety, agitation, and jitteriness, as well as inability to sit still / pacing. This may be induced by antipsychotics, such as haloperidol, or anti-emetics such as prochlorperazine or metoclopramide.
- **Opioids:** respiratory arrest or hypoventilation, evidence of opiate use (bystander report, drug paraphernalia, opioid prescription bottles, “track marks”), miosis (constricted or pinpoint pupils).
- **Organophosphates:** bradycardia, increased secretions, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, pinpoint pupils), SLUDGEM, BBB. See [Nerve Agent/Organophosphate Poisoning Protocol – Pediatric 2.12P](#).
- **Solvents:** nausea, coughing, vomiting, and mental status change.
- **Sympathomimetic/Stimulants:** tachycardia, hypertension, increased temperature, dilated pupils, anxiety, paranoia, diaphoresis. Examples are bath salts, cocaine, caffeine, methamphetamine, ecstasy, ADHD drugs, thyroid meds (rarely), albuterol.
- **Tricyclic (Cyclic):** seizures, dysrhythmias, hypotension, decreased mental status or coma.

Medical Protocol 2.18P

EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Check finger stick glucose by glucometer. If the blood glucose reading is < 60 mg/dl, treat patient for seizures and see [Diabetic Emergencies \(Hypoglycemia\) Protocol – Adult 2.8A](#).
- If diazepam rectal gel (Diastat) or intranasal midazolam (Versed) has been prescribed by the patient's physician, assist the patient or caregiver with administration in accordance with physician's instructions.
- If the patient has an implanted vagus nerve stimulator (VNS), suggest that family use the VNS magnet to activate the VNS and assist if required.
 - To activate the VNS, move the magnet across the skin directly on the VNS device 2-3 times, then remove the magnet. If unsuccessful, repeat every 3 – 5 minutes for a total of 3 times.
- Note: Do not delay medication administration.
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- Establish IV access.

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- Do not delay administration of medications to start IV.
- For seizure lasting > 5 minutes (status epilepticus), administer:
 - Midazolam 10 mg IM (preferred) or intranasal, may repeat 10 mg IM or intranasal every 10 minutes (maximum dose 20 mg) (Note: a 5 mg/mL concentration is recommended for IM/intranasal administration.); **OR**
 - Midazolam 5 mg IV repeated every 5 minutes until seizure activity is resolved (maximum dose 20 mg) **OR**
 - Lorazepam 1 – 2 mg IV, every 5 minutes (maximum dose 8 mg) **OR**
 - Diazepam 5 – 10 mg IV, then 2.5 mg every 5 minutes (maximum dose 20 mg).
- Consider magnesium sulfate, 4 grams in 10 mL D5W or 0.9% NaCl slow IV push over 5 minutes, in the presence of seizures in the third trimester of pregnancy or post partum.
- Contact **Medical Direction** for additional dosing.



PEARLS:

- Do not attempt to restrain the patient; protect the patient from injury.
- History preceding a seizure is very important. Find out what precipitated the seizure (e.g., medication non-compliance, active infection, seizure history, trauma, hypoglycemia, alcohol/substance abuse, third-trimester pregnancy or post partum).
- Post partum patients may experience eclamptic seizures up to several weeks after giving birth.
- Status epilepticus is defined as any generalized seizure lasting more than 5 minutes. This is a true emergency requiring rapid airway control, treatment (including benzodiazepines), and transport.
- Any seizure still present upon EMS arrival and/or lasting more than 5 minutes should be treated with benzodiazepines.
- Diazepam and lorazepam are not effective when administered IM and should be given IV.
- **The preferred initial dose of benzodiazepine is midazolam IM/intranasal. After initial dose, establish an IV in case additional medication doses are needed. If an IV is already established, administer benzodiazepine IV.**



EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- If the blood glucose reading is < 60 mg/dl, treat patient for seizures and see [Diabetic Emergencies \(Hypoglycemia\) Protocol – Pediatric 2.8P](#).
- Obtain the patient's temperature for suspected febrile seizure (rectal route preferred, as appropriate).
- If diazepam rectal gel (Diastat) or intranasal midazolam (Versed) has been prescribed by the patient's physician, assist the patient or caregiver with administration in accordance with physician's instructions.
- If the patient has an implanted vagus nerve stimulator (VNS), suggest that family use the VNS magnet to activate the VNS and assist if required.
 - To activate the VNS, move the magnet across the skin directly on the VNS device 2-3 times, then remove the magnet. If unsuccessful, repeat every 3 – 5 minutes for a total of 3 times.
- Note: Do not delay medication administration.
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- Establish IV access.

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- Do not delay administration of medications to start IV.
- For seizure lasting > 5 minutes (status epilepticus), administer:
 - Midazolam 0.2 mg/kg IM (preferred) or intranasal (single maximum dose 10 mg) (Note: a 5 mg/mL concentration is recommended for IM/intranasal administration) **OR**
 - Midazolam 0.1 mg/kg IV (single maximum dose 4 mg) **OR**
 - Lorazepam 0.1 mg/kg IV (single maximum dose 4 mg) **OR**
 - Diazepam 0.1 mg/kg IV (single maximum dose 10 mg IV).
- Any of the above may be repeated once after 5 minutes.
- Contact **Medical Direction** for additional dosing.



PEARLS:

- Do not attempt to restrain the patient; protect the patient from injury.
- History preceding a seizure is very important. Find out what precipitated the seizure (e.g., medication non-compliance, active infection, trauma, hypoglycemia, poisoning).
- **Status epilepticus** is defined as any generalized seizure lasting more than 5 minutes. This is a true emergency requiring rapid airway control, treatment (including benzodiazepines), and transport.
- Any seizure still present upon EMS arrival and/or lasting more than 5 minutes should be treated with benzodiazepines.
- Diazepam and lorazepam are not effective when administered IM and should be given IV.
- Any seizure still present upon EMS arrival and/or lasting more than 5 minutes should be treated with benzodiazepines.
- **The preferred initial dose of benzodiazepine is midazolam IM/intranasal. After initial dose, establish an IV in case additional medication doses are needed. If an IV is already established, administer benzodiazepine IV.**

IDENTIFICATION OF POSSIBLE SEPSIS:

- Suspected infection – YES
- Evidence of sepsis criteria – YES (2 or more):
 - Temperature < 36°C or > 38.3°C (< 96.8°F or > 101°F)
 - Heart rate > 90 bpm
 - Respiratory rate > 20 bpm
 - Systolic blood pressure (SBP) < 90 mmHg **OR** Mean Arterial Pressure (MAP) < 65mmHg
 - New onset altered mental status **OR** increasing mental status change with previously altered mental status
 - Lactate ≥ 2
 - ETCO₂ < 25 mmHg

IF POSITIVE SEPSIS SCREEN, NOTIFY RECEIVING FACILITY OF A “SEPSIS ALERT”.

**EMT STANDING ORDERS****E**

- Routine Patient Care.
- Administer oxygen at a rate to keep oxygen saturation ≥94%.
- Check finger stick glucose by glucometer.
- Do not delay transport.
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS**A**

- Establish IV access. Do not delay transport to start IV.
- Administer 0.9% NaCl to maintain systolic blood pressure >90 mmHg in 500 mL boluses. Total volume should not exceed 2,000 mL. Contact **Medical Direction** after first 1,000 mL.
- Patients should be reassessed frequently, with special attention given to the lung examination to ensure volume overload does not occur.

**PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS****P**

- Obtain serum lactate level (if available and trained)
- If there is no response after 2,000 mL IV fluid infused, continue up to 4,000 mL IV fluid, contact **Medical Direction** and consider:
 - Norepinephrine 1 – 30 mcg/min IV/IO via pump (preferred 1st line agent).
 - Consider push dose epinephrine (10 mcg/mL) for short transport times or as bridge to infusion. Administer 0.5 – 2 mL IV/IO every 2 – 5 minutes (5 – 20 mcg).
 - If inadequate response to norepinephrine, consider adding second agent:
 - Epinephrine infusion 2 – 10 mcg/min infusion via pump IV/IO.

**PEARLS:**

- Sepsis is a systemic inflammatory response syndrome due to infection, often resulting in significant morbidity and mortality. Septic shock is diagnosed if there is refractory hypotension that does not respond to fluid therapy.
- Severe septic shock has a 50% mortality rate and must be treated aggressively.
- Suspect infection in patients with cough, an indwelling catheter, open wounds, paralysis, recent antibiotic use, or bedridden or immuno-compromised individuals.
- Early goal directed therapy consisting of IV fluid administration and early antibiotics reduces mortality in septic patients.
- Notifying Emergency Departments of patients with possible septic shock will improve early initiation of goal directed therapy.
- When administering vasopressors, monitor IV site for signs of extravasation.

Identification of Possible Sepsis:

- Suspected infection – YES
- Temperature $< 36^{\circ}\text{C}$ or $> 38.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($< 96.8^{\circ}\text{F}$ or $> 101^{\circ}\text{F}$)
- Heart rate greater than normal limit for age (heart rate may not be elevated in septic hypothermic patients) **AND** at least one of the following indications of altered organ function:
 - Altered mental status
 - Capillary refill time < 1 second (flash) or > 3 seconds
 - Mottled cool extremities
 - Lactate ≥ 2 or $\text{ETCO}_2 < 25$ mmHg, if available.

Upper limit of Pediatric HR

Age	Heart Rate
0 d - 1 m	> 205
≥ 1 m - 3 m	> 205
≥ 3 m - 1 y	> 190
≥ 1 y - 2 y	> 190
≥ 2 y - 4 y	> 140
≥ 4 y - 6 y	> 140
≥ 6 y - 10 y	> 140
≥ 10 y - 13 y	> 100
> 13 y	> 100



IF YES TO ALL SEPSIS ALERT CRITERIA, CONTACT RECEIVING HOSPITAL AND REPORT "SEPSIS ALERT"



EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Monitor and maintain airway and breathing as these may change precipitously.
- Administer oxygen to maintain oxygen saturation $\geq 94\%$.
- Check finger stick glucose by glucometer.
- Do not delay transport.
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- Establish IV access. Do not delay transport to start IV.
- IV fluids should be titrated to attaining normal capillary refill, peripheral pulses, and level of consciousness:
 - Administer fluid bolus of 20 mL/kg of 0.9% NaCl by syringe push method; reassess patient immediately after completion of bolus.
 - If inadequate response to initial fluid bolus, administer a second 20 mL/kg bolus of 0.9% NaCl by syringe push method; reassess patient immediately after completion of bolus.
 - If inadequate response to second fluid bolus, administer a third 20 mL/kg bolus of 0.9% NaCl by syringe push method; reassess patient immediately after completion of bolus.

Note: Reassess patient between each bolus for improving clinical signs and signs of fluid overload (rales, increased work of breathing, or increased oxygen requirements).

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- Obtain serum lactate level (if available and trained).
- If there is no response after 3 fluid boluses, contact **Medical Direction** and consider:
 - Additional fluids
 - Norepinephrine 0.1 – 1 mcg/kg/min via pump, titrated to effect (preferred), maximum dose of 2 mcg/kg/min **OR**
 - Epinephrine 0.1 – 1 mcg/kg/min via pump, titrated to effect.



PEARLS:

- Sepsis is a systemic inflammatory response syndrome due to infection. Frequent causes of septic shock include urinary, respiratory, or gastrointestinal infections and complications from catheters and feeding tubes. Patients who are immuno-compromised are also susceptible to sepsis.
- Septic shock has a high mortality and is one of the leading causes of pediatric mortality.
- Aggressive IV fluid therapy and early antibiotics significantly reduces mortality.
- When administering vasopressors, monitor IV site for signs of extravasation.

Any patient with signs, symptoms, and history suggesting inadequate tissue perfusion should be considered to be in shock. Make every effort to determine and treat the underlying cause. Regardless of etiology, shock patients should be transported immediately to the nearest appropriate facility for definitive care. Provide advanced notification to hospitals on all patients with suspected shock.

EMT STANDING ORDERS

- Routine Patient Care.
- Keep the patient supine. Do not elevate feet.
- Prevent heat loss by covering with warm blankets if available and if the patient is not febrile.

E

<u>CARDIOGENIC SHOCK</u>	<u>DISTRIBUTIVE SHOCK</u>	<u>HYPOVOLEMIC SHOCK</u>	<u>OBSTRUCTIVE SHOCK</u>
Assess for pulmonary edema and/or congestive heart failure (CHF). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain and transmit ECG. • If CHF is suspected refer to Congestive Heart Failure (Pulmonary Edema) Protocol 3.3. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If patient has history of adrenal insufficiency refer to Adrenal Insufficiency Protocol 2.1. • If anaphylaxis is suspected refer to Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis Protocol 2.2A. • If septic shock is suspected refer to Septic Shock Protocol 2.20A. • If neurogenic shock is suspected, consider spinal motion restriction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control active bleeding using direct pressure, pressure bandages, tourniquets (commercial tourniquets preferred), or hemostatic bandage. • Only utilize topical hemostatic bandage which have been determined to be effective and safe in a standardized laboratory injury model. • Refer to Tourniquet & Hemostatic Agent Protocol 6.7. 	

ADVANCED EMT - STANDING ORDERS

- Administer fluids warmed to 104F, if feasible. IV fluid administration should be based on physiologic signs rather than routine IV fluid administration in all patients.
- Physiological signs:
 - Altered mental status.
 - Radial pulse cannot be palpated.
 - Systolic blood pressure is < 90 mmHg.

A



Assess for signs of pulmonary edema and consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPAP. • Establish IV 0.9% NaCl to keep vein open. • Contact Medical Direction to consider 0.9% NaCl fluid bolus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer 0.9% NaCl to maintain systolic blood pressure >90 mm Hg in 500 mL boluses. Total volume should not exceed 2,000 mL. Contact Medical Direction after the first 1,000 mL. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer 0.9% NaCl to maintain mental status and peripheral perfusion and to maintain systolic blood pressure >90 mm Hg in 250 mL boluses. Total volume should not exceed 2,000 mL. Contact Medical Direction after first 1,000 mL. 	
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Protocol Continues

Protocol Continued

PARAMEDIC – Contact MEDICAL DIRECTION and consider:

- Obtain serum lactate level (if available and trained).



P

<u>CARDIOGENIC SHOCK</u>	<u>DISTRIBUTIVE SHOCK</u>	<u>HYPOVOLEMIC SHOCK</u>	<u>OBSTRUCTIVE SHOCK</u>
<p>(An infusion pump is required for the use of these vasopressor agents)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norepinephrine infusion 1 – 30 mcg/min (preferred agent) OR • Epinephrine infusion 2 – 10 mcg/min titrated to effect OR • Consider push dose epinephrine (10mcg/mL) for short transport times or as bridge to infusion. Administer 0.5-2 mL IV/IO every 2-5 minutes (5-20 mcg). <p>Consider additional 250 mL 0.9% NaCl fluid bolus.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norepinephrine 1 - 30 mcg/min (preferred agent) • For patient with history of adrenal insufficiency, administer stress dose of hydrocortisone 100 mg IV/IO/IM (preferred) or other injectable steroid. 		<p>If tension pneumothorax suspected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needle decompression.

EXTENDED CARE

X

- A tourniquet may be used temporarily to slow major bleeding while treating other life threatening concerns or to identify the best location for direct pressure. The tourniquet can be left in place for at least an hour. If direct pressure does not control bleeding, the tourniquet will need to be reapplied and left in place during evacuation.

Etiology of Shock

- **Cardiogenic Shock:** History of cardiac surgery, rhythm disturbances, or post cardiac arrest. Assess for acute MI and pulmonary edema.
 - Signs & Symptoms of cardiogenic shock: chest pain, shortness of breath, crackles, JVD, hypotension, tachycardia, diaphoresis.
- **Distributive Shock:** Anaphylaxis, see [Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis Protocol – Adult 2.2A](#), neurogenic shock, sepsis, see [Septic Shock Protocol – Adult 2.20A](#). Assess for fever and signs of infection.
 - Signs & Symptoms of neurogenic shock: sensory and/or motor loss, hypotension, bradycardia versus normal heart-rate, warm, dry skin.
- **Hypovolemic Shock:** Dehydration, volume loss, or hemorrhagic shock.
 - Signs & Symptoms of hypovolemic shock: tachycardia, tachypnea, hypotension, diaphoresis, cool skin, pallor, flat neck veins.
- **Obstructive Shock:** Consider tension pneumothorax, pulmonary embolism, and cardiac tamponade.
 - Signs and symptoms of tension pneumothorax: asymmetric or absent breath sounds, respiratory distress or hypoxia, signs of shock including tachycardia and hypotension, JVD, possible tracheal deviation upon palpation above the sternal notch (late sign).

PEARLS:

For patients with uncontrolled hemorrhagic or penetrating torso injuries:

- Restrict IV fluids to maintain BP of 80-90 systolic. Delaying aggressive fluid resuscitation until operative intervention may improve the outcome. Operative intervention must be available within 30-45 minutes to utilize this strategy. In rural areas with longer transport times restricting fluid may result in exsanguination and irreversible shock.
- Patients should be reassessed frequently, with special attention given to the lung examination to ensure volume overload does not occur.
- Several mechanisms for worse outcomes associated with IV fluid administration have been suggested, including dislodgement of clot formation, dilution of clotting factors, and acceleration of hemorrhage caused by elevated blood pressure.



Any patient with signs, symptoms, and history suggesting inadequate tissue perfusion should be considered to be in shock. Make every effort to determine and treat the underlying cause. Regardless of etiology, shock patients should be transported immediately to the nearest appropriate facility for definitive care. Provide advanced notification to hospitals for all patients with suspected shock.

EMT STANDING ORDERS

- Routine Patient Care.
- Keep the patient supine. Do not elevate feet.
- Prevent heat loss. Cover with warm blankets if available and if the patient is not febrile.

E

CARDIOGENIC SHOCK

DISTRIBUTIVE SHOCK

HYPOVOLEMIC SHOCK

OBSTRUCTIVE SHOCK

If patient has history of adrenal insufficiency refer to [Adrenal Insufficiency Protocol – 2.1](#).
 If anaphylaxis is suspected refer to [Allergic Reaction/ Anaphylaxis Protocol – Pediatric 2.2P](#).
 If septic shock is suspected, refer to [Septic Shock Protocol – Pediatric 2.20P](#).
 If neurogenic shock is suspected, consider spinal motion restriction.

- Control active bleeding using direct pressure, pressure bandages, tourniquets (commercial tourniquets preferred), or hemostatic bandage,
- Only utilize topical hemostatic bandage which have been determined to be effective and safe in a standardized laboratory injury model.
- Refer to [Tourniquet & Hemostatic Agent Protocol 6.7](#).

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

- Consider:
- Establish IV 0.9% NaCl to keep vein open.
 - Contact **Medical Direction** to consider 0.9% NaCl in 10 mL/kg bolus over < 15 min and repeat as tolerated.



A

- Administer 0.9% NaCl in 20 mL/kg bolus over < 15 min to improve clinical condition. May repeat to a max of 60 mL/kg. Contact **Medical Direction** when possible.
- Therapeutic endpoints (in order of importance) are:
 - Normal mental status,
 - Capillary refill,
 - Normal pulses and heart rate,
 - No difference between peripheral and central pulses,
 - Warm extremities, and
 - THEN normal blood pressure, see [Pediatric Color Coded Appendix A2](#).

- Administer 0.9% NaCl in 20 mL/kg bolus over < 15 min to improve clinical condition. May repeat to a maximum 60 mL/kg. Contact **Medical Direction** when possible.
- Therapeutic endpoints (in order of importance) are:
 - Normal mental status,
 - Capillary refill,
 - Normal pulses and heart rate,
 - No difference between peripheral and central pulses,
 - Warm extremities, and
 - THEN normal blood pressure, see, [Pediatric Color Coded Appendix A2](#).

Medical Protocol 2.21P

Protocol Continues



Protocol Continued

PARAMEDIC – Contact **MEDICAL DIRECTION** and consider:

- Check serum lactate (if available and trained).
- Consider fluid administration via infusion pump.
- If signs and symptoms of hypoperfusion persist or symptoms worsen, regardless of etiology, contact **Medical Direction** and consider norepinephrine administration via length-based resuscitation tape in the absence of hemorrhagic shock.

P

CARDIOGENIC SHOCK

If hypotensive consider:
(An infusion pump is required for the use of these vasopressor agents)

- Norepinephrine infusion 0.1 – 2 mcg/kg/min titrated to effect **OR**
- Epinephrine 0.1 – 1 mcg/kg/min titrated to effect.

DISTRIBUTIVE SHOCK

If hypotensive consider: (An infusion pump is required for the use of these vasopressor agents)

- Norepinephrine infusion 0.1 – 2 mcg/kg/min titrated to effect **OR**
- Epinephrine 0.1 – 1 mcg/kg/min titrated to effect **OR**
- For patient with history of adrenal insufficiency, administer stress dose of hydrocortisone 2 mg/kg IV/IO/IM (max dose 100 mg) or other injectable steroid.

HYPOVOLEMIC SHOCK

OBSTRUCTIVE SHOCK

If tension pneumothorax suspected:

- Needle decompression.

EXTENDED CARE

X

- A tourniquet may be used temporarily to slow major bleeding while treating other life threatening concerns or to identify the best location for direct pressure. The tourniquet can be left in place for at least an hour. If direct pressure does not control bleeding, the tourniquet will need to be reapplied and left in place during evacuation.

Etiology of Shock

- **Cardiogenic Shock:** History of cardiac surgery, rhythm disturbances, or post cardiac arrest. Assess for acute MI and pulmonary edema.
 - Signs & Symptoms of cardiogenic shock: chest pain, shortness of breath, crackles, JVD, hypotension, tachycardia, diaphoresis.
- **Distributive Shock:** Anaphylaxis (see [Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis Protocol – Pediatric 2.2P](#)), neurogenic shock, sepsis, see [Septic Shock Protocol – Pediatric 2.20P](#). Assess for fever and signs of infection.
 - Signs & Symptoms of neurogenic shock: sensory and/or motor loss, hypotension, bradycardia versus normal heart-rate, warm, dry skin.
- **Hypovolemic Shock:** Dehydration, volume loss, or hemorrhagic shock.
 - Signs & Symptoms of hypovolemic shock: tachycardia, tachypnea, hypotension, diaphoresis, cool skin, pallor, flat neck veins.
- **Obstructive Shock:** Consider tension pneumothorax, pulmonary embolism, and cardiac tamponade.
 - Signs and symptoms of tension pneumothorax: asymmetric or absent unilateral breath sounds, respiratory distress or hypoxia, signs of shock including tachycardia and hypotension, JVD, possible tracheal deviation above the sternal notch (late sign).

PEARLS:

For patients with uncontrolled hemorrhagic or penetrating torso injuries:

- Contact **Medical Direction** to discuss restriction of IV fluids. Delaying aggressive fluid resuscitation until operative intervention may improve the outcome. Operative intervention must be available within 30-45 minutes to utilize this strategy. In rural areas with longer transport times restricting fluid may result in exsanguination and irreversible shock.
- Patients should be reassessed frequently, with special attention given to the lung examination to ensure volume overload does not occur.
- Several mechanisms for worse outcomes associated with IV fluid administration have been suggested, including dislodgement of clot formation, dilution of clotting factors, and acceleration of hemorrhage caused by elevated blood pressure.

2.22A Smoke Inhalation – Adult

EMT/ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

E/A

- Routine Patient Care.
- Oxygen 100% via non-rebreather mask or BVM.
- Decontamination concurrent with initial resuscitation.
- If a carbon monoxide (CO) oximeter is available, consider obtaining carbon monoxide levels.
- If a measuring device is available, obtain atmospheric levels of carbon monoxide (CO) and cyanide (CN).
- If altered mental status, check finger stick glucose by glucometer.
- See [Burn/Electrocution/Lightening Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 4.0](#).
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- Consider early advanced airway control in patients with suspected upper or lower airway burns or severe smoke inhalation. See [Airway Management Protocol – Adult 5.1A](#).
 - Consider epinephrine 3 mg (3 mL) in 3 mL 0.9% NaCl via nebulizer for symptomatic patients, especially if unable to obtain advanced airway.
- If you have a patient with a history of smoke exposure and an altered level of consciousness and/or hemodynamic or respiratory compromise, establish IV access and administer, if available:
 - Hydroxocobalamin via use of Cyanokit:
 - Reconstitute: Place the vial of hydroxocobalamin in an upright position; add 0.9% NaCl to the vial (200 mL for 5 grams vial or 100 mL for 2.5 grams vial) using the transfer spike. Fill to the line.
 - Rock vial for at least 60 seconds (do not shake).
 - Using vented intravenous tubing, administer IV over 15 minutes.
 - Depending on clinical response, a second dose may be required.
 - Consider regional plan for centralized storage of Cyanokit and means to deliver emergently to fire scene.

- 
- Oxygen saturation may be inaccurate in patients exposed to carbon monoxide or cyanide.
 - CO oximeter devices may yield inaccurate low/normal results for patients with CO poisoning. All patients with probable or suspected CO poisoning should be transported to the nearest appropriate hospital, based on their presenting signs and symptoms.
 - Do not administer other drugs concurrently in same IV as hydroxocobalamin.

Symptoms: headache, confusion, dyspnea, chest tightness, nausea.

Signs: soot in the nose or mouth, change in level of consciousness, seizure, dilated pupils, coughing, tachypnea and hypertension (early), bradypnea and hypotension (late), shock, vomiting.

PEARLS:

- Smoke is a dangerous mixture of toxic gases and suspended chemicals resulting from combustion. Smoke inhalation is the result of inhaling these heated components. While it may be impossible to predict exactly what components of combustion are inhaled, cyanide (CN) and carbon monoxide (CO) are common elements found in smoke and should be suspected in all smoke inhalation victims.



Smoke Inhalation – Pediatric 2.22P

EMT/ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

E/A

- Routine Patient Care.
- Oxygen 100% via non-rebreather mask or BVM.
- Decontamination concurrent with initial resuscitation.
- If a carbon monoxide (CO) oximeter is available, consider obtaining carbon monoxide levels.
- If a measuring device is available, obtain atmospheric levels of carbon monoxide (CO) and cyanide (CN).
- See [Burn/Electrocution/Lightening Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 4.0](#).
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- Consider early advanced airway control in patients with suspected upper or lower airway burns or severe smoke inhalation. See [Airway Management Protocol – Pediatric 5.1P](#).
 - Consider epinephrine 3 mg (3 mL) in 3 mL 0.9% NaCl via nebulizer for symptomatic patients, especially if unable to obtain advanced airway.
- If you have a patient with a history of smoke exposure and an altered level of consciousness and/or hemodynamic or respiratory compromise, establish IV access and administer, if available:
 - Hydroxocobalamin via use of Cyanokit:
 - Reconstitute: Place the vial of hydroxocobalamin in an upright position; add 0.9% NaCl to the vial (200 mL for 5 grams vial or 100 mL for 2.5 grams vial) using the transfer spike. Fill to the line.
 - Rock vial for at least 60 seconds (do not shake).
 - Using vented intravenous tubing, infuse 70 mg/hg as per [Pediatric Color Coded Appendix A2](#) over 15 minutes.
 - Depending on clinical response, a second dose may be required.
 - Consider regional plan for centralized storage of Cyanokit and means to deliver emergently to fire scene.



- Oxygen saturation may be inaccurate in patients exposed to carbon monoxide or cyanide.
- CO oximeter devices may yield inaccurate low/normal results for patients with CO poisoning. All patients with probable or suspected CO poisoning should be transported to the nearest appropriate hospital, based on their presenting signs and symptoms.
- Do not administer other drugs concurrently in same IV as hydroxocobalamin.

Symptoms: headache, confusion, dyspnea, chest tightness, nausea.

Signs: soot in the nose or mouth, change in level of consciousness, seizure, dilated pupils, coughing, tachypnea and hypertension (early), bradypnea and hypotension (late), shock, vomiting.

PEARLS:

- Smoke is a dangerous mixture of toxic gases and suspended chemicals resulting from combustion. Smoke inhalation is the result of inhaling these heated components. While it may be impossible to predict exactly what components of combustion are inhaled, cyanide (CN) and carbon monoxide (CO) are common elements found in smoke and should be suspected in all smoke inhalation victims.

Stroke Screening Tool

Time Last Known Well: (If patient awoke with symptoms, last time known to be at baseline)
Witness: Best contact number for witness: () -

Prehospital Stroke Scale Examination Please check: Normal Abnormal

Facial Droop: Have the patient smile and show teeth.
Normal: Both sides of the face move equally well..
Abnormal: One side of the face does not move as well as the other.

Arm Drift: Have the patient close their eyes and hold arms extended.
Normal: Both arms move the same, or both arms don't move at all.
Abnormal: One arm doesn't move, or one arm drifts down compared to the other.

Speech: Ask the patient to repeat a phrase such as, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks".
Normal: Patient says the correct words without slurring.
Abnormal: Patient slurs words, says the wrong word, or is unable to speak.

Blood Glucose:

Stroke Alert Criteria – Please check Yes or No:

Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Time last known well is < (less than) 24 hours or unknown?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Blood glucose is or has been corrected to > (greater than) 60 mg/dL?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any abnormal finding on Prehospital Stroke Scale examination?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deficit unlikely due to head trauma or other identifiable causes?

Stroke Alert Criteria – If yes to all criteria contact receiving hospital and report a STROKE ALERT AND TIME LAST KNOWN WELL

EMT STANDING ORDERS

- E**
- Routine Patient Care.
 - Establish Stroke Alert Criteria and notify receiving hospital of "Stroke Alert and Time Last Known Well" if indicated.
 - For symptomatic patients:
 - Administer oxygen to maintain O₂ between 94% - 99%
 - Elevate head of stretcher to 30° (unless patient requires spinal motion restriction);
 - Minimize on-scene time. Do not delay for ALS intercept;
 - Acquire and transmit 12-lead ECG, if available;
 - Correct glucose if < 60 mg/dl. See [Diabetic Emergencies \(Hypoglycemia\) Protocol – Adult 2.8A](#) or [Diabetic Emergencies \(Hypoglycemia\) Protocol – Pediatric 2.8P](#).
 - Rapid transport to the most appropriate facility based on regional transport agreements.

AEMT & PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

- A/P:**
- Draw labs, if possible.
 - Establish 18 gauge IV (right AC preferred site) and administer 250 mL 0.9% NaCl bolus.

PEARLS:

- Consider transporting a witness, family member or caregiver with the patient to verify the time of the onset of stroke symptoms.
- For wake up stroke, check if patient had gotten up and been at baseline during the night.
- **Suspect stroke** in patients with any of the following new symptoms or complaints:

○ Acute visual disturbance	○ Difficulty with speech or understanding
○ Altered mental state	○ Severe headache
○ Difficulty with balance or coordination	○ Weakness/numbness left or right
- Consider stroke **mimics** including:

○ Hypoglycemia	○ Migraine
○ Intoxication	○ Seizure
	○ Sepsis

Vermont EMS has taken extreme caution to ensure all information is accurate and in accordance with professional standards in effect at the time of publication. These protocols, policies, or procedures MAY NOT BE altered or modified.

Acute Coronary Syndrome – Adult

3.0

All patients with complaints of chest pain should not automatically be treated with aspirin and nitrates. Consider the likelihood of ACS based on the nature of the symptoms, the patient's age, cardiac risk factors, past medical history, etc.

EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Acquire and transmit 12-lead ECG with baseline vitals within 10 minutes if available. (Do not delay scene time.) Perform serial 12-lead ECG especially when clinical changes are noted.
 - If 12-lead ECG indicates a STEMI, transport patient to the most appropriate facility in accordance with local STEMI guidelines/agreements. Notify receiving facility of a “STEMI Alert”.
- Administer oxygen only to patients with dyspnea, hypoxia (O_2 saturation $<94\%$), or signs of heart failure at a rate to keep O_2 saturation $\geq 94\%$.
- Administer aspirin 324 mg PO (chewable). (Note: If patient has taken a partial dose (81 mg), administer remaining 243 mg.)
- Facilitate administration of the patient's own nitroglycerin every 3 – 5 minutes while symptoms persist and systolic BP remains ≥ 100 mmHg, to a total of 3 doses. Contact **Medical Direction** for additional dosing.
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.



ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- Establish IV access prior to administration of nitroglycerin.
- Nitroglycerin 0.4 mg SL every 3 – 5 minutes while symptoms persist and if systolic BP remains ≥ 100 mmHg.

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- Monitor ECG rhythm.
- Consider IV nitroglycerin at 10 mcg/min if symptoms persist after 3rd SL nitroglycerin (it is recommended two (2) IV lines or equivalent in place and the IV nitroglycerin must be on an infusion pump).
- Increase IV nitroglycerin by 10 mcg/min every 5 minutes while symptoms persist and systolic BP remains ≥ 100 mmHg. Maximum rate 200 mcg per minute.
- If IV nitroglycerin is not available, consider the application of nitroglycerin paste 1 – 2 inches transdermally.
- For chest discomfort unresponsive to nitrates, consider analgesia:
 - Consider fentanyl 25 – 50 mcg slow IV push every 5 minutes up to 300 mcg and systolic BP remains ≥ 100 mmHg (preferred agent) **OR**
 - Consider morphine 2 – 4 mg IV/IM every 5 minutes to a maximum of 15 mg titrated to pain and systolic BP remains ≥ 100 mmHg.
- Treat dysrhythmias as needed; refer to the appropriate protocol.

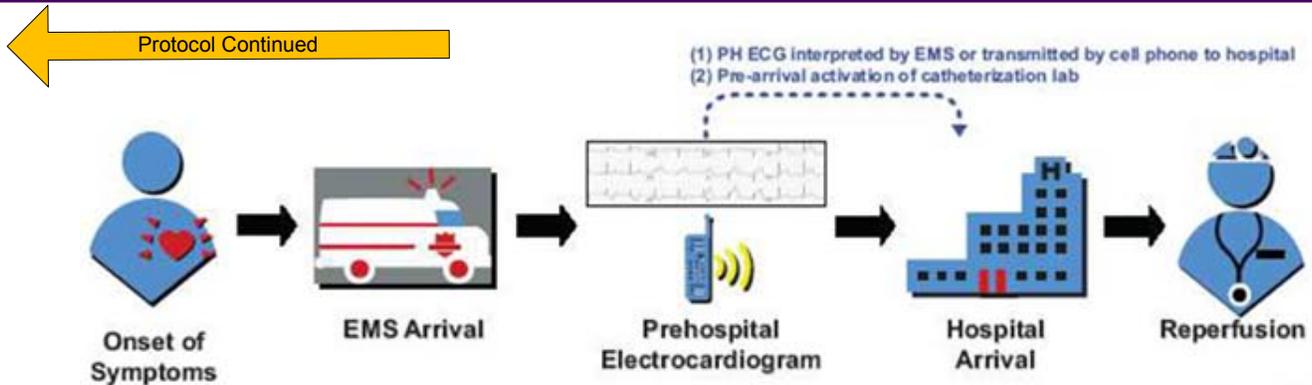


- Avoid nitroglycerin in any patient who has used a phosphodiesterase inhibitor for erectile dysfunction and pulmonary hypertension, such as sildenafil (Viagra, Revatio) or vardenafil (Levitra, Staxyn) within 24 hours, or tadalafil (Cialis, Adcirca) within 48 hours. Also avoid use in patients receiving intravenous prostacyclins for pulmonary hypertension.
- Administer nitrates with extreme caution, if at all, to patients with inferior-wall STEMI or suspected right ventricular (RV) involvement because these patients require adequate RV preload.
- Morphine should be used with caution due to an increased association with mortality.

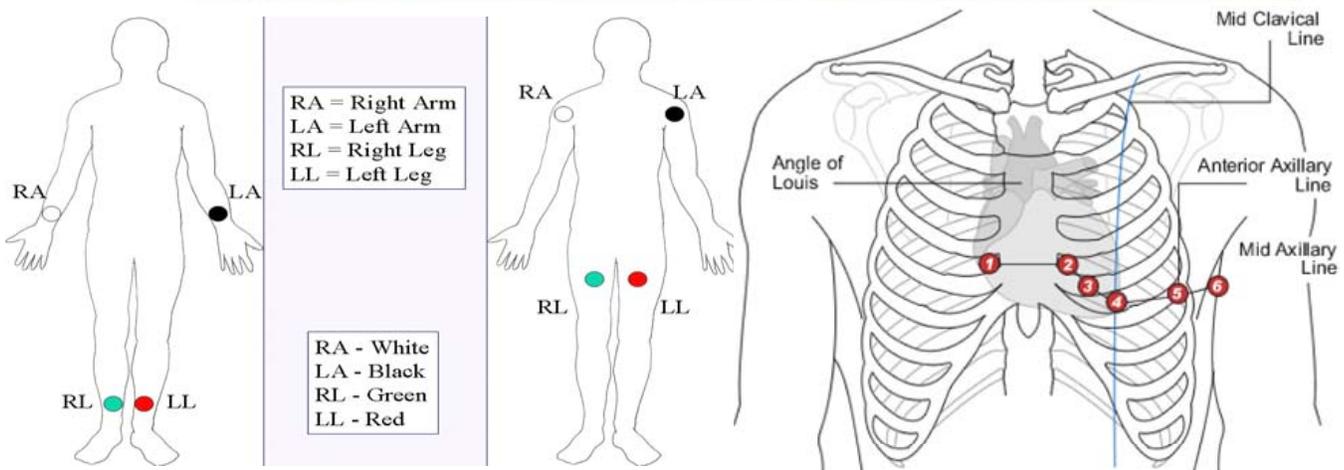
Protocol Continues

3.0

Acute Coronary Syndrome – Adult



Increasing loss of myocytes



PEARLS:

- Transmission of 12-lead ECG and/or communication with receiving facility is critical to the activation of a STEMI system.
- If Paramedic interpretation or automated interpretation states: "Acute MI" or "Meets ST Elevation MI Criteria," notify the receiving facility of a "STEMI ALERT."
- Obtain 12-lead ECG in all patients with the following signs and symptoms:
 - Chest, jaw or arm discomfort; or
 - Shortness of breath; or
 - Epigastric discomfort; or
 - Syncope, general malaise, or palpitations; or
 - Self-administered nitroglycerin; or
 - After sudden cardiac arrest with return of cardiac activity.
- Administration of aspirin has been shown to decrease mortality in Acute Coronary Syndrome.
- Administer aspirin to every patient with suspected acute coronary syndrome unless they have:
 - History of anaphylaxis to aspirin, NSAIDs, or
 - Evidence of active gastrointestinal or other internal bleeding.
- Patients with acute coronary syndrome (especially women, patients with a history of diabetes, and the elderly) may present with signs and symptoms other than chest pain including diaphoresis, shortness of breath, weakness, syncope and nausea.

Acute Coronary Syndrome – Adult

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your local STEMI transport
determination plan.

3.1A

Bradycardia – Adult

EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Consider the underlying causes of bradycardia (e.g., hypoxia, hypoglycemia, toxicologic and hypothermia).
- Acquire and transmit 12-lead ECG, if available.
- **Call for Paramedic intercept if serious signs or symptoms (hypotension, acutely altered mental status, signs of shock, ischemic chest discomfort, or acute heart failure). If Paramedic intercept not available, call for AEMT intercept, if available.**

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- Establish IV/IO access. Consider IO access if hemodynamically unstable.
- Consider and treat hypovolemia. Administer 500 mL 0.9% NaCl fluid bolus.

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

If Serious Signs or Symptoms (hypotension, acutely altered mental status, signs of shock, ischemic chest discomfort, or acute heart failure):

- Consider atropine 0.5 mg IV/IO every 3 – 5 minutes to a total of 3 mg.
- If atropine is ineffective:
 - Consider transcutaneous pacing.
 - Consider procedural sedation prior to or during pacing, if feasible:
 - Midazolam 2.5 mg IV/IO/intranasal, may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR** 5 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes **OR**
 - Lorazepam 1 mg IV/IO, may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR** 2 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes **OR**
 - Diazepam 2 mg IV/IO, may repeat once in 5 minutes.
 - Consider analgesia prior to or during transcutaneous pacing, if feasible:
 - Fentanyl 25 – 50 mcg slow IV push, may repeat every 5 minutes to a total of 300 mcg **OR**
 - Morphine 2 – 4 mg IV every 10 minutes to a total of 15 mg and systolic BP \geq 100 mmHg.
- Consider epinephrine infusion at 2 – 10 mcg/min IV/IO, titrated to effect.
- Contact **Medical Direction** for consultation.

Other Causes:

- Contact **Medical Direction** and consider:
 - For symptomatic beta blocker or calcium channel blocker overdose, consider glucagon 2 – 5 mg IV/IO over 3 – 5 minutes. May repeat up to 10 mg; if effective, place on infusion 1 – 5 mg/hr IV/IO via pump.
 - For symptomatic calcium channel blocker overdose or hyperkalemia/renal failure, consider calcium chloride 500 – 1,000 mg (5 – 10 mL of a 10% solution) IV/IO over 10 minutes.
 - May repeat as needed. Contact **Medical Direction**.



For calcium chloride administration, ensure IV patency and do not exceed 1 mL per minute. Flush with 0.9% NaCl before and after administration. Contact **Medical Direction**.

PEARLS:

- **Bradycardia**, in the context of adult medicine, is the resting heart rate of under 60 beats per minute, though it is seldom symptomatic until the rate drops below 50 beats/min. It may cause cardiac arrest in some patients, because those with bradycardia may not be pumping enough oxygen to their hearts. It sometimes results in syncope, shortness of breath, and if severe enough, death. Trained athletes, patients on beta blockers or young healthy individuals may also have a slow resting heart rate. Resting bradycardia is often considered normal if the individual has no other symptoms such as fatigue, weakness, dizziness, lightheadedness, syncope, chest discomfort, palpitations or shortness of breath associated with it. The term **relative bradycardia** is used in explaining a heart rate which, although not actually below 60 beats per minute, is still considered too slow for the individual's current medical condition.



EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care. Administer 100% oxygen.
- Consider and treat the underlying causes of bradycardia (e.g., hypoxia, hypoglycemia and hypothermia).
- Begin/continue CPR if heart rate is <60 bpm **AND** the child shows signs of poor systemic perfusion with hypoperfusion despite adequate ventilation and oxygenation.
- Acquire and transmit 12-lead ECG, if available.
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- Establish IV access. Consider IO access if hemodynamically unstable.
- Consider and treat hypovolemia. Administer 20 mL/kg 0.9% NaCl IV fluid bolus.

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

For Bradycardia With Serious Signs and Symptoms:

- Epinephrine 0.01 mg/kg IV/IO slow push (0.1 mL/kg of **1:10,000**) every 3 – 5 minutes (max single dose 1 mL). If no IV/IO access, may give ET dose 0.1 mg/kg (0.1 mL/kg of **1:1,000**).
- Consider atropine 0.02 mg/kg IV/IO for increased vagal tone or AV blocks, may repeat once (maximum single dose 0.5 mg).
- Consider transcutaneous pacing.
- Consider procedural sedation prior to or during pacing, if feasible:
 - Midazolam 0.05 mg/kg IV/IO/intranasal **OR**
 - Diazepam 0.05 mg/kg IV/IO.
- Consider analgesia prior to or during transcutaneous pacing, if feasible:
 - Fentanyl 1 mcg/kg IV/IM/IO/intranasal (maximum initial dose 100 mcg). Administer slow over 2 – 3 minutes. (Fentanyl is the preferred narcotic agent.) **OR**
 - Morphine 0.1 mg/kg IV/IO (maximum initial dose 10 mg). Administer slow over 2 – 3 minutes.
 - Reassess patient every 5 minutes. If no contraindications and patient is still in moderate to severe pain, may redose at 5 – 10 minute intervals at half the original dose to a total of 3 doses.
 - See [Pain Management Protocol – Pediatric 2.17P](#).

Other Causes:

- Contact **Medical Direction** and consider:
 - For hypoglycemia, see [Diabetic Emergencies \(Hypoglycemia\) Protocol – Pediatric 2.8P](#).
 - For symptomatic beta blocker or calcium channel blocker overdose, consider glucagon. See chart below.
 - For symptomatic calcium channel blocker overdose or hyperkalemia/renal failure, consider calcium chloride (10% solution) 20 mg/kg IV (0.2 mL/kg) slow IV push not to exceed 1 mL per minute. May repeat if clinical indication persists.



Glucagon

0.1 mg/kg bolus for bradycardia
(Max dose 5 mg)



For calcium chloride administration, ensure IV patency and do not exceed 1 mL per minute. Flush with 0.9% NaCl before and after administration. Contact **Medical Direction**.



PEARLS:

- In children, bradycardia almost always reflects hypoxia, rather than a primary cardiac problem. It is a pre-arrest rhythm, and the prognosis is poor if left untreated. Immediate delivery of high-flow oxygen and assisted ventilation are essential. Untreated bradycardia will quickly cause shock, hypotension and death.
- Combine age-specific heart rates with signs of respiratory failure and shock while assessing. If child is asymptomatic, consider supportive treatment.

EMT STANDING ORDERS**E**

- Routine Patient Care—with focus on CPR. Administer 100% oxygen.
- Immediate chest compressions (high quality CPR with minimal interruptions).
- Apply AED and use as soon as possible (with minimum interruption of chest compressions). (See AED Algorithm in Appendices.)
 - If a shock is delivered to patient, transport as soon as one of the following occurs:
 - You have administered three shocks.
 - The patient regains a pulse.
 - If you have received three consecutive NSI messages, contact **Medical Direction** to consider termination of resuscitation **OR** continue resuscitation and transport.
- If Return of Spontaneous Circulation occurs, see [Post Resuscitative Care Protocol – Adult 3.4A](#).
- Consider termination of efforts or not attempting resuscitation (see [DNR/COLST Orders 8.9](#) and/or [Resuscitation Initiation and Termination Protocol 8.17](#)).
- For traumatic arrest deemed appropriate for transport, all interventions beyond CPR and spinal motion restriction should be performed enroute to receiving facility. Minimize scene time.
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.

**ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS****A**

- Do not interrupt chest compressions for advanced airway, IV/IO placement or epinephrine administration.
- Establish IV/IO access. Administer 500 mL bolus 0.9% NaCl IV/IO in the absence of pulmonary edema.
- Monitor quantitative waveform capnography throughout resuscitation, if available, to assess and monitor airway placement and CPR quality, and to monitor for signs of Return of Spontaneous Circulation.
- Consider and correct treatable causes: hypoxia, overdose/poisoning, hypothermia and hypovolemia—treat as per specific protocol.
- If ventilation is adequate with BVM, routine placement of advanced airway can be delayed. Consider advanced airway after use of AED, as applicable.
- After first AED shock or no-shock advisory, administer epinephrine (**1:10,000**) (**0.1 mg/mL**) 1 mg IV/IO; repeat every 3 to 5 minutes. (See AED Algorithm in Appendices.)
- Continue CPR for 2 minutes between interventions; stop only for rhythm check or Return of Spontaneous Circulation.

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS**P**

- Follow ACLS guidelines as trained and credentialed. (See Cardiac Algorithms in Appendices.)
 - Placement of an advanced airway during cardiac arrest should not interrupt chest compressions. In this setting, supraglottic airways and ETTs can be considered equivalent. Attempts at ETT placement should be limited to 10 seconds or less.
- For ventricular fibrillation (VF)/pulseless ventricular tachycardia (VT):**
- Defibrillation when available, with minimum interruption in chest compressions. Use manufacturer's recommendations. Continue CPR for 2 minutes; then rhythm check; then:
 - Administer epinephrine (**1:10,000**) (**0.1 mg/mL**) 1 mg IV/IO; repeat every 3 – 5 minutes.
 - Continue CPR for 2 minutes between interventions; Don't stop for rhythm check or Return of Spontaneous Circulation for 2 minutes.
 - If no response after second defibrillation, administer:
 - Amiodarone 300 mg IV/IO (preferred first-line agent), repeat dose 150 mg as needed **OR**
 - Lidocaine 1 – 1.5 mg/kg IV/IO, repeat dose 0.5 – 0.75 mg/kg (maximum total dose 3 mg/kg).
 - For Torsades de Pointes: Magnesium sulfate 1 – 2 g IV/IO over 1 – 2 minutes.
 - For refractory ventricular fibrillation, consider:
 - Changing pad placement from anterior-apex to anterior-posterior.
 - If second manual defibrillator is available, consider [Double Sequential Defibrillation Procedure 6.1](#)

Protocol Continues 

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS - ADULT

Protocol Continues

P

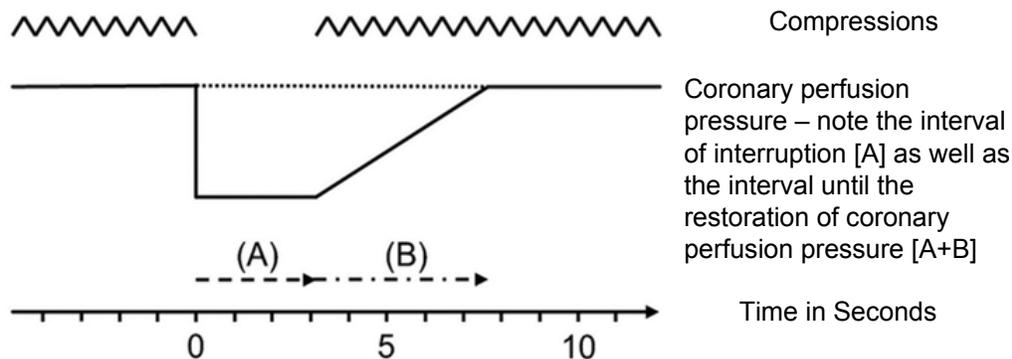
For asystole or pulseless electrical activity (PEA):

Continue CPR for 5 cycles (2 minutes), then rhythm check.

- Administer epinephrine (1:10,000) (0.1 mg/mL) 1 mg IV/IO, repeat every 3 to 5 minutes.
- Continue CPR for 2 minutes between interventions; Don't stop for rhythm check or Return of Spontaneous Circulation for 2 minutes.
- Consider tension pneumothorax and treat with needle decompression if indicated.
- For suspected pre-arrest metabolic acidosis, suspected or known hyperkalemia (renal failure/dialysis patient), known tricyclic antidepressant overdose, or suspected excited/agitated delirium, consider sodium bicarbonate 1 mEq/kg IV/IO. **Do not use routinely in cardiac arrest.** Administer 0.9% NaCl flush before and after sodium bicarbonate. See [Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose Protocol – Adult 2.18A](#).
- For known or suspected hyperkalemia (dialysis patient/renal failure) or as an antidote for toxic effects (hypotension and arrhythmias) from calcium channel blocker or B-blocker overdose consider calcium chloride 500 to 1,000 mg (5 to 10 mL of a 10% solution) slow IV/IO. May repeat as needed. Contact **Medical Direction**. Do not mix with or infuse immediately before or after sodium bicarbonate. **Do not use routinely in cardiac arrest.** See [Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose Protocol – Adult 2.18A](#).



EFFECT OF INTERRUPTIONS TO CPR ON CORONARY PERFUSION PRESSURE



PEARLS:

- Early CPR and early defibrillation are the most effective therapies for cardiac arrest care.
- Minimize interruptions in chest compression, as pauses rapidly return the blood pressure to zero and stop perfusion to the heart and brain.
- The recommended chest compression rate is 100 to 120/min.
- Integrated teams of highly-trained rescuers may use a choreographed approach that accomplishes multiple steps and assessments simultaneously rather than the sequential manner used by individual rescuers. Where EMS systems have adopted bundles of care involving continuous chest compressions, the use of passive ventilation techniques may be considered as part of that bundle for victims of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA). See [High-Performance CPR – Adult – Appendix 7](#).
- Switch compressors at least every two minutes to minimize fatigue. Check rhythm and pulse during switch to avoid excessive interruptions in CPR.
- Compress when charging and resume compressions immediately after the shock is delivered to minimize interruptions to CPR.
- Do not hyperventilate as it increases intrathoracic pressure and decreases blood return to the heart. Ventilate at a rate of 8 – 10 breaths per minutes, with enough volume to produce adequate chest rise.
- Mechanical CPR devices are acceptable with appropriate training. Interruption in CPR to apply device should be limited to 10 seconds or less.



EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care—with focus on CPR. Administer 100% oxygen.
- Immediate chest compressions.
- Apply AED and use as soon as possible (with minimum interruption of chest compressions). From birth to age 8 years use pediatric AED pads.
 - If pediatric AED pads are unavailable, providers may use adult AED pads, provided the pads do not overlap.
- If Return of Spontaneous Circulation occurs see [Post Resuscitative Care Protocol – Pediatric 3.4P](#).
- Consider termination of efforts or not attempting resuscitation, see [DNR/COLST 8.9](#) and/or [Resuscitation Initiation and Termination 8.17](#).
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- Do not interrupt chest compressions for airway or IV/IO placement.
- Establish IV/IO access.
- BVM ventilation is the preferred method of ventilation for pediatric population. However, if unsuccessful, consider placement of supraglottic airway. Consider advanced airway after use of AED, as applicable.
- Monitor quantitative waveform capnography throughout resuscitation, if available, to assess and monitor airway placement and CPR quality, and to monitor for signs of Return of Spontaneous Circulation.
- Consider and correct treatable causes: hypoxia, overdose/poisoning, hypothermia, hypoglycemia, and hypovolemia—treat as per specific protocol.
- Administer 0.9% NaCl 20 mL/kg fluid bolus IV/IO.

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- If ventilation is adequate with BVM, routine placement of advanced airway can be delayed.
- Placement of an advanced airway during cardiac arrest should not interrupt chest compressions. In this setting, supraglottic airways and ETTs can be considered equivalent. ETT placement, if used, should be limited to 1 attempt of 10 seconds or less, as long as BVM or alternate airway provides adequate chest rise.
- Consider tension pneumothorax and treat with needle decompression if indicated.
- For suspected pre-arrest metabolic acidosis, suspected or known hyperkalemia (dialysis patient), or known tricyclic antidepressant overdose, consider sodium bicarbonate 1 mEq/kg IV/IO. Do not mix with any resuscitation drugs. Flush IV tubing with 0.9% NaCl before and after drug administration. **Do not use routinely in cardiac arrest.**
- For known or suspected hyperkalemia (renal failure) or as an antidote for toxic effects (hypotension and arrhythmias) from calcium channel blocker or B-blocker overdose consider calcium chloride 20 mg/kg (0.2 mL/kg) slow IV/IO push. Do not mix with or infuse immediately before or after sodium bicarbonate without intervening flush. **Do not use routinely in cardiac arrest.**

Protocol Continues 



PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

Protocol Continues

P

For Ventricular Fibrillation (VF)/Pulseless Ventricular Tachycardia (VT):

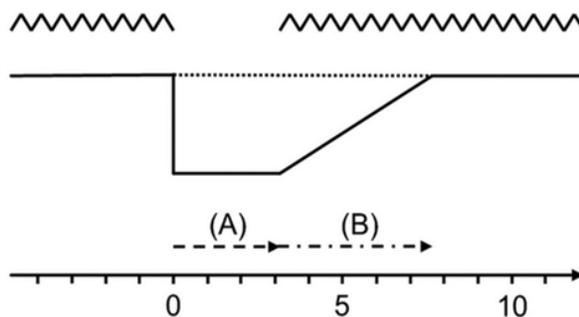
- Use manufacturer's recommendations for joule settings. In general, defibrillate at 2J/kg; perform CPR for 2 minutes and recheck rhythm; if still a shockable rhythm, defibrillate at 4J/kg; perform CPR for 2 minutes; reassess every 2 minutes and continue to defibrillate at 4J/kg.
- If no response after first defibrillation, administer epinephrine **(1:10,000) (0.1 mg/mL)** 0.01 mg/kg (0.1 mL/kg) IV/IO **OR** 0.1 mg/kg **(1:1,000)** 0.1 mL/kg via ETT.
 - Repeat every 3 – 5 minutes.
- If no response after second defibrillation, consider:
 - Amiodarone 5mg/kg (maximum 300 mg) IV/IO. May repeat up to 2 times for refractory VF/VT; **OR**
 - Lidocaine 1 mg/kg IV/IO (maximum dose 100 mg). Maintenance: 20 – 50 mcg/kg/min infusion. Repeat bolus dose if infusion initiated \geq 15 minutes after initial bolus therapy.
 - For Torsades de Pointes: Magnesium sulfate 25 – 50 mg/kg (maximum 2 grams) IV/IO over 1 – 2 minutes.

For Asystole or Pulseless Electrical Activity (PEA):

- Administer Epinephrine **(1:10,000) (0.1 mg/mL)** 0.01 mg/kg (0.1 mL/kg) IV/IO **OR** 0.1 mg/kg **(1:1,000) (1 mg/mL)** 0.1 mL/kg via ETT; repeat every 3 – 5 minutes.
- Give 2 minutes of CPR, then check rhythm:
 - If asystole or PEA, continue epinephrine and 2 minutes of CPR until:
 - Pulse obtained **OR**
 - Shockable rhythm obtained **OR**
 - Decision made to discontinue further efforts. Contact **Medical Direction** for guidance.



EFFECT OF INTERRUPTIONS TO CPR ON CORONARY PERFUSION PRESSURE



Compressions

Coronary perfusion pressure – note the interval of interruption [A] as well as the interval until the restoration of coronary perfusion pressure [A+B]

Time in Seconds

PEARLS:

- Optimize oxygenation, ventilation and volume status. Cardiac arrest in children typically results from progressive deterioration in respiratory or cardiovascular function.
- Minimize interruptions in chest compression, as pauses rapidly return the blood pressure to zero and stop perfusion to the heart and brain.
- Switch compressors at least every two minutes to minimize fatigue. Check rhythm and pulse during switch to avoid excessive interruptions in CPR.
- Perform “hands on” defibrillation.
 - Compress when charging and resume compressions immediately after the shock is delivered to minimize interruptions to CPR.
- Avoid excessive ventilation.
- Do not use mechanical CPR devices on children.

3.3

Congestive Heart Failure (Pulmonary Edema) – Adult

EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Place the patient in a semi-sitting or full sitting position.
- Contact **Medical Direction** for online order to facilitate administration of the patient's own nitroglycerin, while symptoms persist and systolic BP is ≥ 140 mmHg.
- Acquire and transmit 12-lead ECG, if available.
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.



ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- Establish IV access.
- Contact **Medical Direction** to consider nitroglycerin 0.4 mg SL every 3 – 5 minutes while symptoms persist and if the systolic BP is ≥ 140 mmHg.
- Consider Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) with maximum 10 cm H₂O pressure support. (See [CPAP Protocol 5.3.](#))
 - Consider CPAP for patient with moderate to severe respiratory distress concurrent with the following signs and symptoms:
 - Oxygen saturation $< 94\%$.
 - Respiratory rate > 25 /minute.
 - Retractions or accessory muscle use.
 - SBP must be ≥ 100 mmHg to utilize CPAP.



PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- Consider nitroglycerin 0.4 mg SL every 3 – 5 minutes while symptoms persist and if the systolic BP is ≥ 140 mmHg.
- Titrate until symptomatic improvement or systolic BP of 140 mmHg:
 - For systolic BP of 140 – 160 mmHg: IV nitroglycerin start at 50 mcg/min.
 - For systolic BP of 160 – 200 mmHg: IV nitroglycerin start at 100 mcg/min.
 - For systolic BP > 200 mmHg: nitroglycerin start at 200 mcg/min.
 - Note: It is recommended two (2) IV lines in place and the IV nitroglycerin must be on an infusion pump. Maximum dose of 400 mcg/min.
- If patient improves after SL nitroglycerin, may apply nitroglycerin paste 1" – 2" transdermally.



- Avoid nitroglycerin in any patient who has used a phosphodiesterase inhibitor for erectile dysfunction and pulmonary hypertension, such as: sildenafil (Viagra, Revatio) or vardenafil (Levitra, Staxyn) within 24 hours, or tadalafil (Cialis, Adcirca) within 48 hours. Also avoid use in patients receiving intravenous prostacyclins for pulmonary hypertension.
- Administer nitrates with extreme caution, if at all, to patients with inferior-wall STEMI or suspected right ventricular (RV) involvement because these patients require adequate RV preload.

PEARLS:

- Nitroglycerin is the first-line medication for congestive heart failure.
- Furosemide and Narcotics have NOT been shown to improve the outcomes of EMS patients with pulmonary edema. Even though this historically has been a mainstay of EMS treatment, it is no longer recommended.
- If patient has taken nitroglycerin without relief, consider loss of potency due to age.
- If Nitropaste is used, do not continue to use Nitroglycerin SL unless symptoms worsen.
- Allow the patient to be in their position of comfort to optimize their breathing effort.

Post Resuscitative Care – Adult 3.4A

EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Optimize ventilation and oxygenation.
- Acquire and transmit a 12-lead ECG, if available.
- Initial ventilation rate of 10 - 12 BPM.
- Maintain oxygen saturation at $\geq 94\%$.

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- Titrate ventilation rate to quantitative waveform capnography of 35 to 40 mmHg.
- When feasible, titrate FiO_2 to minimum necessary to achieve $SpO_2 \geq 94\%$.
- If SBP < 90 mmHg administer 0.9% NaCl 500 mL fluid bolus IV/IO. Contact **Medical Direction** for additional fluid dosing.

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- Maintain systolic blood pressure of ≥ 90 mmHg.
- Secure advanced airway if indicated. See [Orotracheal Intubation Protocol 5.10](#).

If Cardiac Arrest Was The Result of VF or VT, Manage The Patient As Follows:

- If amiodarone/lidocaine was administered during resuscitation, do *not* administer additional doses. However, if the patient is having frequent PVCs or runs of VT, or if the transport time will exceed 30 minutes, start an antidysrhythmic:
 - Amiodarone maintenance infusion of 1 mg/min IV/IO **OR**
 - Lidocaine maintenance infusion 1 – 4 mg/min IV/IO (30 – 50 mcg/kg/min).
- Do not use amiodarone if the patient has heart block or profound bradycardia (heart rate <60, second-degree type II AV block, or third-degree AV block).
- Do not use lidocaine if CHF, cardiogenic shock, heart block or WPW.

For Post-Resuscitation Hypotension:

- Administer 0.9% NaCl in 250 – 500 mL boluses. Total volume should not exceed 2,000 mL.
- Consider: (An infusion pump is required for the use of these pressor agents)
 - Norepinephrine infusion 1 to 30 mcg/min IV/IO titrated to effect (preferred agent) **OR**
 - Epinephrine infusion 2 – 10 mcg/min IV/IO titrated to effect **OR**
 - Consider epinephrine push dose (10 mcg/mL) for short transport times or as bridge to infusion. Administer 0.5 – 2 mL IV/IO every 2 – 5 minutes (5 – 20 mcg).

Consider nasogastric or orogastric tube for the intubated patient.

PEARLS:

- Recognition and treatment of a STEMI are critical in the post-cardiac arrest patient. Consider transport of patient to the most appropriate facility in accordance with local STEMI guidelines/agreements. Notify receiving facility of a “**STEMI ALERT**”. See [Acute Coronary Syndrome Protocol – Adult 3.0](#).
- Avoid hyperventilation as it increases intrathoracic pressures, potentially worsening hemodynamic instability. Hyperventilation may also cause hypocarbia and elevated arterial oxygen levels (hyperoxia) and increased hospital mortality post-resuscitation from cardiac arrest.
- Monitor patient closely for recurrent cardiac arrest.



3.4P Post Resuscitative Care – Pediatric

EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Optimize ventilation and oxygenation.
- Acquire and transmit a 12-lead ECG, if available.
- Initial ventilation rate of 8 - 10 BPM.
- Maintain oxygen saturation at $\geq 94\%$.



ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- Titrate ventilation rate to quantitative waveform capnography of 35 to 40 mm Hg.
- When feasible, titrate FiO_2 to minimum necessary to achieve $SpO_2 \geq 94\%$.
- If SBP < 90 mmHg administer 0.9% NaCl 20 mL/kg fluid bolus IV/IO.

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- Maintain systolic blood pressure of ≥ 90 mmHg.
- Secure advanced airway if indicated. See [Orotracheal Intubation Protocol 5.10](#).

If Cardiac Arrest Was The Result of VF or VT, Manage The Patient As Follows:

- If amiodarone/lidocaine was administered during resuscitation, do *not* administer additional doses. However, if the patient is having frequent PVCs or runs of VT, or if the transport time will exceed 30 minutes, start an antidysrhythmic:
 - Amiodarone maintenance infusion of 0.005 – 0.01 mg/kg/min IV/IO via pump
 - OR**
 - Lidocaine 20 – 50 mcg/kg/min IV/IO via pump.
- Do not use amiodarone if the patient has heart block or profound bradycardia (heart rate <60, second-degree type II AV block, or third-degree AV block).

For Post-Resuscitation Hypotension:

- Administer 0.9% NaCl 20 mL/kg IV (may repeat x 1) **AND/OR**
- Consider:
 - Epinephrine 0.1 – 1 mcg/kg/min IV/IO titrated to effect (preferred agent) **OR**
 - Norepinephrine infusion 0.1 – 2 mcg/kg/min IV/IO titrated to effect.
 - An infusion pump is required for the use of these vasopressors.

Consider nasogastric or orogastric tube for the intubated patient.

PEARLS:

- Avoid hyperventilation as it increases intrathoracic pressures, potentially worsening hemodynamic instability. Hyperventilation may also cause hypocarbia and elevated arterial oxygen levels (hyperoxia) and increased hospital mortality post-resuscitation from cardiac arrest.
- Monitor patient closely for recurrent cardiac arrest.

EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Acquire and transmit 12-lead ECG, if available
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- Establish IV access. Consider IO access if hemodynamically unstable.

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

Follow ACLS guidelines as trained and credentialed. Search for underlying causes.

If symptomatic and hemodynamically unstable:

- For regular, narrow complex, consider adenosine 6 mg rapid IV/IO, followed by rapid flush.
 - May repeat at dose of 12 mg if no conversion.
 - May repeat successful dose if dysrhythmia recurs after conversion.
- Otherwise, synchronized cardioversion:

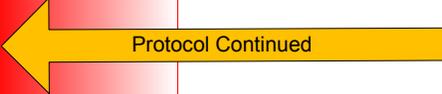
Use the following initial energy doses, then escalate to the next higher energy level if no conversion. Biphasic devices: follow manufacturer's recommendations for dosing.

 - For narrow regular rhythm: 50 – 100J biphasic or 200J monophasic.
 - For narrow irregular rhythm: 120 – 200J biphasic or 200J monophasic.
 - For wide regular rhythm: 100J biphasic or monophasic.
 - For wide irregular/polymorphic VT: 120 – 200J biphasic or 360 monophasic, using unsynchronized defibrillation doses if unable to sync:
- Administer procedural sedation prior to or during cardioversion, if feasible. Do not delay cardioversion.
 - Midazolam 2.5 mg IV/IO/intranasal, may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR** 5 mg IM may repeat once in 10 minutes **OR**
 - Lorazepam 1 mg IV/IO, may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR** 2 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes **OR**
 - Diazepam 2 mg IV/IO, may repeat once in 5 minutes.

If symptomatic, but hemodynamically stable:

- **For narrow complex tachycardia (with a heart rate persistently >150bpm):**
 - Attempt vagal maneuvers, for regular rhythms.
 - If vagal maneuvers fail and the rhythm is regular:
 - ☐ Adenosine 6 mg rapid IV/IO, followed by rapid flush.
 - ☐ May repeat at dose of 12 mg if no conversion.
 - ☐ May repeat successful dose if rhythm recurs after conversion.
 - If irregular rhythm, to control ventricular rate:
 - ☐ Diltiazem 0.25 mg/kg IV/IO (maximum dose 20 mg) over 2 minutes. (Consider 10 mg maximum dose for elderly patient or patient with low BP.)
 - ❖ May repeat dose in 15 minutes at 0.35 mg/kg (maximum dose 25 mg), if necessary.
 - ❖ Consider maintenance infusion at 5 – 15 mg/hour IV/IO **OR**
 - ☐ Metoprolol 5 mg IV/IO over 2 – 5 minutes.
 - ❖ May repeat every five minutes to a maximum of 15 mg as needed to achieve a ventricular rate of 90 – 100 BPM.

Protocol Continues 


 Protocol Continued

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

If symptomatic, but hemodynamically stable: (continued from previous page)

- For wide complex tachycardia:
 - Only for regular rhythm with monomorphic QRS:
 - Consider: adenosine 6 mg rapid IV/IO, followed by rapid flush.
 - May repeat at dose of 12 mg if no conversion.
 - May repeat successful dose if rhythm recurs after conversion.
 - Consider:
 - Amiodarone 150 mg IV/IO mixed with 100 mL D5W or 0.9% NaCl over 10 minutes.
 - May repeat once in 10 minutes.
 - If successful, consider a maintenance infusion of 1 mg/min **OR**
 - Lidocaine 1 mg/kg IV/IO
 - May repeat every 5 minutes (total of 3 doses) to maximum of 3 mg/kg.
 - If successful, consider a maintenance infusion of 1 – 4 mg/min IV/IO.

For polymorphic Ventricular Tachycardia/Torsades de Pointes:

- If pulse present, consider magnesium sulfate 2 gm IV/IO diluted in 10 mL D₅W or 0.9% NaCl over 10 minutes.

P

- 
- Diltiazem, metoprolol, amiodarone and adenosine are contraindicated in patients with a history of or suspected Wolff-Parkinson-White (WPW) syndrome.
 - Medications should be administered cautiously in frail or debilitated patients; lower doses should be considered.
 - Be cautious in rate controlling patients in rapid atrial fibrillation (A Fib) who may be compensating for another disease process such as sepsis or pulmonary embolism.

PEARLS:

- Consider and treat potential underlying causes, e.g., hypoxemia, dehydration, fever.
- Wide complex tachycardia should be considered Ventricular Tachycardia until proven otherwise.
- Do not administer Diltiazem to wide complex tachycardia.
- Signs and symptoms of hemodynamic instability:
 - Hypotension
 - Acutely altered mental status
 - Signs of shock
 - Signs of acute heart failure
 - Ischemic chest pain
- If ventricular rate is >150/min, prepare for **immediate cardioversion**. May give brief trial of medications based on specific arrhythmias. Immediate cardioversion is generally not needed if heart rate is ≤150.
- Adenosine should be administered rapidly through a proximal (e.g., antecubital) vein site followed by a rapid saline flush.
- For best results of vagal maneuver: start with patient's head of bed elevated by 30 degrees. While patient performs vagal maneuver sustained over 15 seconds, lay the patient flat and elevate their legs.



EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Acquire and transmit 12-lead ECG, if available.
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- Establish IV access. Consider IO access if hemodynamically unstable.

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

If symptomatic and hemodynamically unstable:

- **For narrow complex/probable SVT:**
 - Adenosine 0.1 mg/kg rapid IV/IO not to exceed 6 mg (first dose), followed by rapid flush.
 - Repeat once at 0.2 mg/kg not to exceed 12 mg (subsequent dose).
 - If adenosine is ineffective or for wide complex, perform synchronized cardioversion:
 - 0.5 – 1J/kg; if unsuccessful, increase to 2J/kg.
 - Administer procedural sedation prior to or during cardioversion, if feasible:
 - Midazolam 0.05 mg/kg IV/IO/intranasal **OR**
 - Diazepam 0.05 mg/kg IV/IO.

If symptomatic but hemodynamically stable:

- **For narrow complex, probable supraventricular tachycardia, or regular wide complex tachycardia (monomorphic QRS ONLY):**
 - Adenosine 0.1 mg/kg IV/IO not to exceed 6mg (first dose).
 - May repeat once at 0.2 mg/kg IV/IO not to exceed 12 mg (subsequent dose).
- **For wide complex:**
 - Amiodarone 5 mg/kg IV/IO (maximum 300 mg) over 20-60 minutes **OR**
 - Lidocaine 1 mg/kg IV/IO bolus (maximum 100 mg).
- **For polymorphic ventricular tachycardia/Torsades de Pointes**
 - Magnesium sulfate 25-50 mg/kg IV/IO over 10-20 minutes (maximum dose 2 grams).

PEARLS:

- Consider and treat potential underlying causes, e.g., hypoxemia, dehydration, fever.
- Signs and symptoms of hemodynamic instability:
 - Hypotension
 - Acutely altered mental status
 - Signs of shock
- Probable Sinus Tachycardia
 - Compatible history consistent with known cause
 - P waves are present and normal
 - Variable R-R and constant P-R interval
 - Infants: rate usually <220/min
 - Children: rate usually <180/min
- Probable Supraventricular Tachycardia
 - Compatible history (vague, nonspecific); history of abrupt onset / rate changes
 - P waves absent / abnormal
 - Heart-rate is NOT variable
 - Infants: rate usually >220/min
 - Children: rate usually >180/min
 - Adenosine should be administered rapidly through a proximal (e.g., antecubital) vein site followed by a rapid saline flush

4.0

Burns/Electrocution/Lightening Adult & Pediatric

Trauma Protocol 4.0

EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.
- Assess for evidence of smoke inhalation or burns; soot around mouth or nostrils, singed hair, carbonaceous sputum.
- If the patient has respiratory difficulty, altered level of consciousness and /or hemodynamic compromise, see [Airway Management Protocol - Adult 5.1A](#) or [Airway Management Protocol - Pediatric 5.1P](#) and [Smoke Inhalation Protocol - Adult 2.22A](#) or [Smoke Inhalation Protocol - Pediatric 2.22P](#).

Thermal

- Stop burning process with water or normal saline
- Cut/remove non-adherent clothing and jewelry. Do not remove skin or tissue.
- To protect from infection, cover burns with clean dry sterile dressing or sheets.
- Keep patient warm and prevent hypothermia due to large thermal injuries.

Chemical

- Identify agent(s) and consider HAZMAT intervention, if indicated. See [Hazardous Material Exposure Protocol 9.0](#)
- Consider contacting Poison Control at 800-222-1222.
- Decontaminate the patient as appropriate.
 - Brush off dry powders if present, before washing.
 - Scrape viscous material off with rigid device, i.e., tongue depressor
 - Flush with copious amounts of clean water or sterile saline for 10 – 15 minutes, unless contraindicated by type of chemical agent (i.e., sodium, potassium or dry lime and/or phenols).

Electrical/Lightening

- Ensure your own safety; disconnect power source.
- For MCI associated with lightening, cardiac arrest patients should receive first priority.
- Consider spinal motion restriction for burns due to electric flow across the body.

Assess Extent of Burn

- Determine extent of the burn using Rules of Nine (see next page).
- Determine depth of injury.
- Do not include 1st degree burns in burn surface area (BSA) percentage.

Pain Control

- If a partial thickness burn, 2nd degree) is < 10% body surface area:
 - Apply room-temperature water or room-temperature wet towels to burned area of a maximum of 15 minutes. Prolonged cooling may result in hypothermia.

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDER - ADULT

A

- Establish IV access.
- Transport time less than 1 hour:
 - Administer warm 0.9% NaCl/LR at 500 mL/Hour.
- Transport time greater than 1 hour and 2nd or 3rd degree burns involving ≥ 20% BSA:
 - $\frac{\text{Burn Area} \times \text{Pt. Wt. in Kg}}{4} = \# \text{ mL/hour}$, over the first 8 hours 0.9% NaCl/LR IV

Example: 20% burned area, patient weighs 70kg. $20 \times 70 = 1400 / 4 = 350 \text{ mL/hr}$.

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS - PEDIATRIC

- Establish IV access.
- Transport time less than 1 hour:
 - 5 – 15 years of age: 250 mL/hr 0.9% NaCl/LR.
 - 2 – 5 years of age: 125 mL/hr 0.9% NaCl/LR.
 - Less than 2 years of age: 100 mL/hr 0.9% NaCl/LR.
- Transport time greater than 1 hour and 2nd or 3rd degree burns involving ≥15% body surface area:
 - $\frac{\text{Burn Area} \times \text{Pt. Wt. in Kg}}{4} = \# \text{ mL/hour} \times \text{first 8 hours } 0.9\% \text{ NaCl/LR IV}$.

Example: 20% burned area, patient weighs 30 kg. $20 \times 30 = 600 / 4 = 150 \text{ mL/hr}$.

An IO device can be inserted through burned skin as long as the underlying bone has not been compromised.

Protocol Continues

Burns/Electrocution/Lightening Adult & Pediatric

4.0

Protocol Continues

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

Refer to:

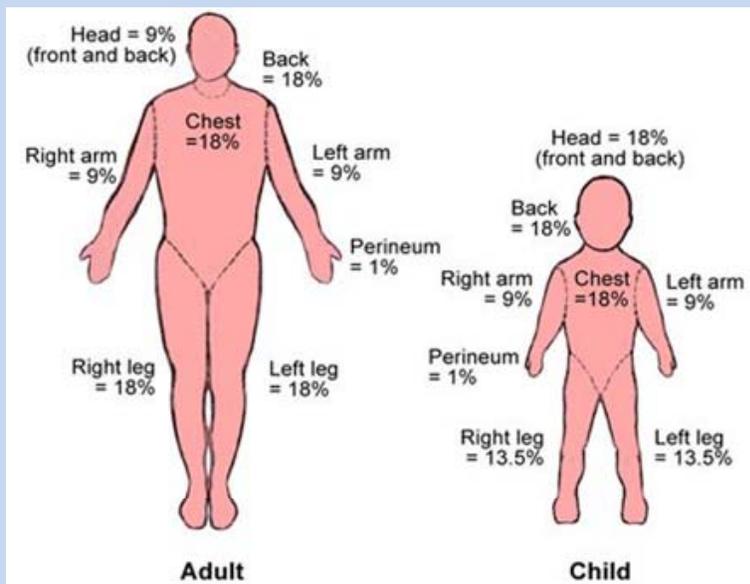
- [Airway Management Protocol – Adult 5.1A](#) or [Airway Management Protocol – Pediatric 5.1P](#).
- [Pain Management Protocol – Adult 2.17A](#) or [Pain Management Protocol – Pediatric 2.17P](#).

Transport Decision:

- Consider air medical transport for major burns with greater than 20% BSA and/or inhalation injury with risk of airway compromise.

Rule of Nines

	Adult	Pediatric
Head & Neck	9%	18%
Left arm	9%	9%
Right arm	9%	9%
Chest	9%	9%
Abdomen	9%	9%
Upper back	9%	9%
Lower back	9%	9%
Left leg	18%	13.5%
Right leg	18%	13.5%
Genital region	1%	1%



Expert burn center opinion recommends limiting prehospital IV fluids based on concerns for fluid overload and development of compartment syndrome. In cases where burn patients are in shock, IV fluid administration should be based on use of the [Shock Protocol – Adult 2.21A](#) or [Shock Protocol – Pediatric 2.21P](#).

PEARLS:

- Apnea may last longer than asystole in lightning injuries. Provide ventilatory support.
- Electrocution/lightening burns can occur anywhere along the path a current travels through the body. Evident surface burns may only comprise a small portion of the overall burn injury, and an injury's full extent may not be immediately apparent.
- Chemical burns: If 0.9% NaCl or sterile water is not readily available, do not delay, use tap water for flushing the affected area. Flush the area as soon as possible with the cleanest readily available water using copious amounts of water.

4.1

Drowning/Submersion Injuries – Adult & Pediatric

EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Assume c-spine injury and stabilize c-spine. (See [Advanced Spinal Assessment Procedure 6.0](#) and [Spinal Motion Restriction Protocol 4.5.](#))
- Obtain specific history: time, temperature, associated trauma, etc.
- Begin resuscitation efforts while removing the patient from the water.
- Consider hypothermia.
- Remove wet clothes and warm the patient.
- All patients with history of submersion should be transported to the hospital.
- Reassure anxious patient.
- If water temperature is estimated to be less than 6°C (43°F) and submerged:
 - Less than 90 minutes: Initiate full resuscitation
 - Greater than 90 minutes: Consider not initiating resuscitation or termination of efforts. Contact **Medical Direction** for guidance.
- If water temperature is estimated to be greater than 6°C (43°F) and submerged:
 - Less than 30 minutes: Initiate full resuscitation
 - Greater than 30 minutes: Consider not initiating resuscitation or termination of efforts. Contact **Medical Direction** for guidance.
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.



ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

A/P

- Consider CPAP to supplement the patient's own spontaneous respiratory effort.
- Establish IV/IO access.



Do not attempt water rescues unless properly trained and equipped. When operating on scenes involving water, use extreme caution and wear a PFD.

PEARLS:

SCUBA Diving related injuries: for patients presenting with suspected diving-related emergencies, a thorough assessment should include obtaining the patient's dive computer and/or dive plan. The major types of dive-related illnesses include Pulmonary Over-Pressurization Syndromes (POPS) and Decompression Sickness (DCS). Seriously ill patients may present with any combination of altered mental status, respiratory distress or shock. After recognition of a suspected diving related emergency, treatment should focus on supplemental oxygen and rapid transport. ED staff should be fully briefed on the patient's dive history.

References:

Michael J. Tipton, Frank St. C. Golden, November 2010. "A proposed decision-making guide for the search, rescue and resuscitation of submersion (head under) victims based on expert opinion" - *Resuscitation* 82 (2011) 819–824

Eye Injuries – Adult & Pediatric

4.2

Trauma Protocol 4.2

EMT/ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

E/A

- Routine Patient Care.
- Obtain visual history (e.g., use of corrective lenses, surgeries, use of protective equipment).
- Obtain visual acuity, if possible.
- Assist patient with the removal of contact lens, if applicable.
- Chemical irritants, including pepper spray, alkali, acid or other chemical exposure:
 - Flush with copious amounts of water, or 0.9% NaCl for a minimum of 20 minutes.
 - Consider contacting Poison Control at (800) 222-1222 as soon as practical for consultation.
- Thermal burns to eyelids: patch both eyes with cool saline compress.
- Impaled object: immobilize object and patch both eyes. Do not apply pressure. Do not attempt to remove object.
- Puncture wound: place rigid protective device over both eyes (e.g., eye shield). Do not apply pressure.
- Foreign body: Minor foreign objects like dust or grit may be flushed with water or 0.9% NaCl. Patch both eyes.
- If the patient cannot close their eyelids, keep their eye moist with a sterile saline dressing.

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- Proparacaine or tetracaine:
 - Apply 2 drops to affected eye; repeat every 5 minutes as needed.
- Consider use of Morgan lens for irrigation.
- Refer to [Pain Management Protocol – Adult 2.17A](#) or [Pain Management Protocol – Pediatric 2.17P](#).
- Refer to the [Nausea/Vomiting Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 2.11](#).

PEARLS:

- For chemical exposure to eye position patient with the affected eye downward so irrigation does not run into the unaffected eye.

Dental Injuries – Adult & Pediatric

EMT/ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

E/A/P

- Routine Patient Care.
- Dental avulsions should be placed in an obviously labeled container with saline-soaked dressing, milk, or cell-culture medium (example: Save-a-tooth®).
- Do not place in tap water.

EMT/ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC EXTENDED CARE ORDERS

X

- If definitive treatment is expected to be greater than 4 hours, an attempt to reinsert the avulsed tooth in its socket should be made after rinsing tooth in water or normal saline. If multiple teeth require reinsertion, use the shape and size of dentition on the opposing side to guide you in proper placement.

PEARLS:

- Handle the tooth carefully. Avoid touching the root of the tooth (the part of the tooth that was embedded in the gum) because it can be damaged easily. Primary (baby) teeth should not be reimplanted.

EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Manually stabilize the injury.
- For open fractures, control bleeding and treat for shock. See [Tourniquet & Hemostatic Agent Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 6.7](#), [Shock Protocol – Adult 2.21A](#) or [Shock Protocol – Pediatric 2.21P](#). Remove obvious debris, irrigate open wounds with saline solution, and cover with moist sterile dressing.
- For angulated fractures with circulatory compromise, attempt to reposition to anatomical position of function. In absence of circulatory compromise, splint in position of comfort.
- Assess CSMs distal to injury before and frequently after immobilization.
 - Splint extremity as required.
 - Traction splinting is preferred technique for isolated adult and pediatric mid-shaft femur fractures. Do not apply traction splints to proximal (hip) or distal femur fractures, partial amputations, or if lower leg or ankle injury. Do not delay transport to apply a traction splint in the multi-trauma patient. Traction splinting may be used for open fractures if no contraindications.
- All patients that have a mechanism of injury that could cause a spinal injury, including high risk or questionable injury mechanisms, should have an advanced spinal assessment and spinal motion restriction if indicated. See [Spinal Motion Restriction Protocol 4.5](#) and [Advanced Spinal Assessment Protocol 6.0](#).
- Stabilize suspected pelvic fractures with commercial device (preferred) or bed sheet.
 - It is preferable to use a scoop stretcher rather than to log-roll a patient with a suspected pelvic fracture.
- Amputations should be dressed with bulky dressings. The amputated part should be placed in a plastic bag and transported on ice to hospital with patient.
- See [Trauma Triage and Transport Decision Policy 8.18](#) and [Pain Management Protocol – Adult 2.17A](#) or [Pain Management Protocol – Pediatric 2.17P](#)
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept. Minimize scene time.

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- Establish IV access.
- For significant injury, consider administration of 0.9% NaCl 500 mL bolus IV for adults; 20 mL/kg for **pediatric**.



PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- Assess pain level and consider pain control measures.

PEARLS:

- Use ample padding when splinting possible fractures, dislocations, sprains, and strains. Remove and secure all jewelry. Elevate injured extremities, if possible. Consider the application of a cold pack for 30 minutes.
- Musculoskeletal injuries can occur from blunt and penetrating trauma. Fractures of the humerus, pelvis and femur, as well as fractures or dislocations involving circulatory or neurological deficits, take priority over other musculoskeletal injuries.
- Hip dislocations, pelvic, knee, and elbow fractures / dislocations have a high incidence of vascular compromise.
- Do not manipulate pelvis once fracture is suspected. Repeated manipulation can increase internal hemorrhage.

Rhabdomyolysis/Crush Injury – Adult & Pediatric

4.4

EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care. Maintain oxygen saturation $\geq 94\%$.
- Initiate spinal motion restriction if indicated.
- Acquire and transmit 12-lead ECG if available.
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.
- See [Trauma Triage and Transport Decision Policy 8.18](#).

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A



- Establish IV/IO access. Do not delay transportation to initiate IV/IO access, however if patient is entrapped it is preferable that IV/IO access be initiated and fluid bolus of 1,000 – 2,000 mL 0.9% NaCl (20 mL/kg 0.9% NaCl **pediatric**) be administered prior to extrication.

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P



- Contact **Medical Direction** to consider sodium bicarbonate (1 mEq/kg adult and **pediatric**) for extended entrapment or transport times. This is used to prevent long-term renal damage. Fluid bolus is the most immediate and effective treatment in the prehospital environment.
- Assess pain level. Consider pain control measures. See [Pain Management Protocol – Adult 2.17A](#) or [Pain Management Protocol – Pediatric 2.17P](#).
- For known or suspected hyperkalemia, consider calcium chloride 500 to 1,000 mg (5 to 10 mL of a 10% solution) IV/IO over 10 minutes. May repeat as needed. Contact **Medical Direction**. Do not mix with or infuse immediately before or after sodium bicarbonate.



Trauma Protocol 4.4

PEARLS:

Rhabdomyolysis is caused by any condition that damages skeletal muscle, particularly injury. Risk factors can include ETOH withdrawal (with delirium tremens), compartment syndrome, crush injury, stimulant and depressant drugs, certain genetic muscle diseases, heat emergencies, DVT, seizures, severe exertion (long-distance racing or similar), trauma and prolonged periods of downtime in individuals with altered mental status.

4.5

Spinal Motion Restriction

EMT/ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

- Routine Patient Care.
- Perform advanced spinal assessment (See [Advanced Spinal Assessment Protocol 6.0](#)) to determine if patient requires spinal motion restriction.
- Maintain manual in-line stabilization during assessment, unless patient is alert and spontaneously moving neck.
- Minimize spinal movement during assessment and extrication.
- A long backboard, scoop stretcher, vacuum mattress, or other appropriate full length extrication device may be used for extrication if needed. Do not use short board or KED device, except for vertical extrication or other special situations.
- Apply adequate padding to prevent tissue ischemia and minimize discomfort.

If patient requires Spinal Motion Restriction:

- Apply a rigid cervical collar.
- Self-extrication by patient is allowable if patient is capable.
- Allow ambulatory patients to sit on stretcher and then lie flat. (The "standing take-down" is eliminated.)
- Position backboarded patient on stretcher then remove backboard by using log roll or lift-and-slide technique.
- Situations or treatment priorities may require patient to remain on rigid vacuum mattress or backboard, including the multi-trauma patient, combative patient, elevated intracranial pressure (See also [Traumatic Brain Injury Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 4.8](#)), or rapid transport of unstable patient.
- With the patient lying flat, secure patient firmly with all stretcher straps and leave the cervical collar in place. Instruct the patient to avoid moving head or neck as much as possible.
- Elevate stretcher back only if necessary for patient compliance, respiratory function, or other significant treatment priority.
- If patient poorly tolerates collar (e.g., due to anxiety, shortness of breath, torticollis), replace with towel roll and/or padding.
- Patients with nausea or vomiting may be placed in a lateral recumbent position. Maintain neutral head position with manual stabilization, padding/pillows, and/or the patient's arm. See also [Nausea/Vomiting Protocol 2.11](#).

Pediatric Patients Requiring a Child Safety Seat

For pediatric patients requiring spinal motion restriction, transport in a child safety seat per [Pediatric Transportation Policy 8.13](#),

- Apply padding and cervical collar as tolerated to minimize the motion of the child's spine. Rolled towels may be used for very young children or those who do not tolerate a collar.
- Patient may remain in own safety seat after motor vehicle crash if it has a self-contained harness with a high back and two belt paths and is undamaged. If all criteria are not met, use ambulance's safety seat.
- If the patient requires significant care (e.g. airway management) that cannot be adequately performed in a car seat, remove the patient and secure him/her directly to the stretcher.

E/
A/
P



- Long backboards do not have a role for patients being transported between facilities. If the sending facility has the patient on a long backboard or is asking EMS to use a long backboard for transport, EMS providers should discuss not using a long backboard with the sending facility physician before transporting a patient. If a long backboard is used, it should be padded to minimize patient discomfort.
- Patients with only penetrating trauma do not require spinal motion restriction.
- Caution should be exercised in older patients (e.g. 65 years or older) and in very young patients (e.g. less than 3 years of age), as spinal assessment may be less sensitive in discerning spinal fractures in these populations.

Thoracic and Abdominal Injuries

Adult & Pediatric

4.6

EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- If patient is in shock, see [Shock Protocol – Adult 2.21A](#) or [Shock Protocol – Pediatric 2.21P](#).
- Impaled objects:
 - Do not attempt to remove an impaled object; instead, stabilize it with a bulky dressing or other means. If the impaled object is very large or unwieldy, attempt to cut object to no less than 6 inches from the patient.
- Open chest wound/penetrating injuries to chest or upper back:
 - Cover with an occlusive dressing, or use a commercial device. If the patient's condition deteriorates, remove the dressing momentarily, then reapply. Monitor for tension pneumothorax.
- Flail segment with paradoxical movement and in respiratory distress:
 - Consider positive-pressure ventilation for severe distress.
 - Apply **no** weight to flail segment. Do not splint the chest.
- Abdominal penetrating injuries
 - Apply an occlusive dressing.
 - For evisceration, cover the organs with a saline-soaked sterile dressing and then cover it with an occlusive dressing. Do not attempt to put the organs back into the abdomen.
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.
- Minimize scene time.
- See [Trauma Triage and Transport Decision Policy 8.18](#).

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- Establish IV/IO access.
- Administer fluid bolus 500 mL 0.9% NaCl IV/IO.

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- Consider pain management, see [Pain Management Protocol – Adult 2.17A](#) or [Pain Management Protocol – Pediatric 2.17P](#).
- In presence of tension pneumothorax, perform needle decompression on the affected side.
- For massive flail chest with severe respiratory compromise, consider endotracheal intubation and then assist ventilations.
- For traumatic asphyxia, support ventilations with BVM, establish two large bore IVs and infuse at least 1,000 mL 0.9% NaCl before or immediately after removal of compressive force.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF TENSION PNEUMOTHORAX:

- Increasing respiratory distress or hypoxia, AND
- Increasing signs of shock including tachycardia or hypotension AND one or more of the following:
 - Diminished or absent unilateral breath sounds
 - JVD (neck vein distension)
 - Possible tracheal deviation above the sternal notch away from the side of the injury (late sign)
 - Tympany (hyperresonance) to percussion on the affected side

PEARLS:

- Open chest wounds occur when the chest wall is penetrated by some object or the broken end of a fractured rib.
- Chest pain due to blunt trauma may be an indication of underlying injury.
- Blunt injuries such as pulmonary contusion and cardiac contusion may cause respiratory insufficiency and/or myocardial infarction. Acquire and transmit 12-lead ECG, if available.
- If occlusive dressing is not available, consider using a bulky dressing to seal open chest wounds.

4.7 Tranexamic Acid (TXA) - Adult

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS – ADULT

P

INDICATIONS:

- Evidence of significant blunt or penetrating trauma (e.g. ejection from automobile, fall > 20 feet, pedestrian struck, penetrating injury to neck, torso, etc.)

AND

- Evidence or concern for severe external and/or internal hemorrhage (bleeding requiring tourniquet, amputation proximal to wrist or ankle, unstable pelvis, two or more long bone fractures, concern for significant intra-thoracic or intra-abdominal injury, etc.)

AND

- Presence of one or more markers of hemodynamic instability:
 - Sustained BP < 90
 - Sustained HR > 110 after pain adequately treated

AND

- Injury must have occurred within the past 3 hours

CONTRAINDICATION:

- < 15 years old
- Previous allergic reaction to TXA
- Isolated head injury
- Injury > 3 hours old
- Patients who have received or will receive prothrombin complex concentrate (PCCs), factor VIIa, or factor IX complex concentrates
- Women who are known or suspected to be pregnant with a fetus of viable gestational age. (> 24 weeks)

PROCEDURE:

- Mix 1 g of TXA in 100 mL of 0.9% NaCl or LR. Infuse over approximately 10 minutes IV/IO via pump. Notify receiving facility of TXA administration prior to arriving.



Must have approval of District Medical Advisor to utilize TXA.

PEARLS

- The greatest benefit is seen when TXA is administered to patients within 1 hour of injury.
- Rapid IV push may cause hypotension.
- If there is a new onset of hypotension, slow the TXA infusion.
- Protect patient from extremes in temperatures.
- Do not administer in the same line as blood products, rFVIIa, or PCN
- Good documentation of time of injury, time of TXA administration is necessary.

Traumatic Brain Injury – Adult & Pediatric

4.8

EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care. See [Advanced Spinal Assessment Protocol 6.0](#) and [Spinal Motion Restriction Protocol 4.5](#).
- If breathing is inadequate, ventilate with 100% oxygen utilizing normal ventilation parameters, maintaining SpO₂ >94%.
 - **Adult:** 10 breaths per minute.
 - **Child:** 12 – 20 breaths per minute.
 - **Infant:** 20 – 30 breaths per minute.
- Hyperventilation is rarely necessary in patients with head injury and can be harmful when used inappropriately. Do not hyperventilate unless two or more clear signs of cerebral herniation are present:
 - Extensor posturing, or no motor response to noxious stimuli.
 - Asymmetric, dilated, or non-reactive pupils.
 - Decrease in the GCS >2 points from a patient's best score, in a patient with an initial GCS <9.
- When signs of cerebral herniation are present, hyperventilate at the following rates:
 - **Adult:** 20 breaths per minute.
 - **Child:** 25 breaths per minute.
 - **Infant:** 30 breaths per minute.
 - Discontinue hyperventilation when signs/symptoms improve.
- Assess and document pupillary response and Glasgow Coma Scale every 5 min.
- If the patient is not hypotensive (systolic BP >100 mmHg), elevate the head of the stretcher 30 degrees (12 to 18 inches), if possible.
- Check blood glucose; if hypoglycemic, see [Diabetic Emergencies \(Hypoglycemia\) Protocol – Adult 2.8A](#) or [Diabetic Emergencies \(Hypoglycemia\) Protocol – Pediatric 2.8P](#).
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.
- See [Trauma Triage and Transport Decision Policy 8.18](#).



ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- Maintain systolic BP. Avoid hypotension.
 - **Adult** – maintain SBP:
 - Age > 10 years: ≥ 110 mmHg
 - **Pediatric** - maintain SBP:
 - Age < 1 month: > 60 mmHg
 - Age 1 – 12 months: > 70 mmHg
 - Age 1 – 10 years: > 70 + 2x age in years.
- Establish IV access.
- If hypotensive, administer:
 - **Adult:** Fluid bolus 500 mL 0.9% NaCl IV. See [Shock Protocol – Adult 2.21A](#).
 - **Child and Infant:** Fluid bolus 20 mL/kg 0.9% NaCl IV. See [Shock Protocol – Pediatric 2.21P](#).
- Administer 20 mL/kg 0.9% NaCl IV fluid bolus in a **pediatric** patient with normal systolic blood pressure and who has other signs of decreased perfusion including tachycardia, loss of peripheral pulses, and delayed capillary filling time of >2 seconds. See [Shock Protocol – Pediatric 2.21P](#).
- If quantitative waveform capnography is available:
 - Ventilate to maintain a quantitative waveform capnography of 35-40 mmHg.
 - If signs of cerebral herniation are present maintain quantitative waveform capnography of 30-35 mmHg.
 - Discontinue hyperventilation when signs/symptoms improve.



Protocol Continues

Trauma Protocol 4.8



Protocol Continued

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS -- ADULT

P

- Consider intubation if GCS is <8 and unable to maintain airway with BVM.
 - If intubation is required, consider lidocaine 1.5 mg/kg IV/IO prior to intubation to blunt rise in ICP. (Administer approximately 3 minutes prior to intubation.)
- Consider sedation for patients that are combative and may cause further harm to self and others.
 - Midazolam 2.5 mg IV/IO/intranasal, may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR** 5 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes **OR**
 - Lorazepam 1 mg IV/IO, may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR** 2 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes **OR**
 - Diazepam 2 mg IV/IO, may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR**
 - Ketamine 4 mg/kg (maximum dose 500 mg) administered by intramuscular (IM) injection only. Contact **Medical Direction** for additional dosing.
- For seizures, refer to [Seizure Protocol – Adult 2.19A](#).



PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS -- PEDIATRIC

- If intubation is required, consider lidocaine 1.5 mg/kg IV/IO prior to intubation.
- Consider sedation for patients that are combative and may cause further harm to self and others.
 - Midazolam 0.1 mg/kg IV/IM (maximum dose 4 mg) or 0.2 mg/kg IM/intranasal (maximum single dose 10 mg); may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR**
 - Lorazepam 0.1 mg/kg IV/IM (maximum dose 2 mg), may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR**
 - Diazepam 0.1 mg/kg IV (maximum dose 5 mg), may repeat once in 5 minutes.
- For seizures, refer to [Seizure Protocol – Pediatric 2.19P](#).



Most patients with severe head injury retain airway reflexes. Rapid transport to hospital without intubation is appropriate when possible.

PEARLS:

- Prevention of hypoxia and hypotension are imperative to prevent secondary brain injury.
- Intubation should be approached with extreme caution as it has been associated with worse outcomes when performed in the out-of-hospital environment for patients with traumatic brain injury.
- Both hypoxia and hyperoxia (too little or too much oxygen) have been associated with increased mortality and worse discharge GCS scores in TBI (traumatic brain injury) patients.
- Hyperventilation causes a decrease in the cerebral blood flow by vasoconstriction as a result of decreased levels of CO₂ (which is a vasodilator).
- Hyperventilation should only be used for short periods of time when immediate control of increased ICP is necessary.

ASSESSMENT

Each patient presents unique problems that cannot be fully outlined in any algorithm. As such, the provider must rely on thorough assessment techniques and consider each of the following:

Airway Patency: Assess for airway obstruction or risk of impending obstruction due to facial injuries, mass, foreign body, swelling, etc. Assess for presence/absence of gag reflex.

Ventilatory Status: Assess for adequate respiratory effort and impending fatigue/failure/apnea. Assess for accessory muscle use, tripod positioning, the ability of the patient to speak in full sentences. If available, assess quantitative waveform capnography.

Oxygenation: Any oxygen saturation <90% represents relatively severe hypoxia and should be considered an important warning sign. In addition to oxygen saturation, assess for cyanosis.

Airway Anatomy: Before attempting airway maneuvers or endotracheal intubation, especially with the use of RSI, assess patient anatomy to predict the probability of success and the need for backup device or technique.

- First, assess for difficulty of mask seal. Patients with facial hair, facial fractures, obesity, extremes of age, and pathologically stiff lungs (COPD, acute respiratory distress syndrome, etc.) may require special mask techniques or alternatives.
- Next assess for difficulty of intubation. Patients with a short neck, the inability to open their mouth at least three finger widths (or other oral issues such as a large tongue or high arched palate), less than three finger-widths of thyromental distance (or a receding jaw), reduced atlanto-occipital movement (such as in suspected c-spine injury), obesity or evidence of obstruction (such as drooling or stridor) may be difficult to intubate.

DEVISE A PLAN

1. Each patient will present unique challenges to airway management. Therefore, before any intervention is attempted, the provider should contemplate a plan of action that addresses the needs of the patient, and anticipates complications and how to manage them.
2. Airway management is a continuum of interventions, not an “all or none” treatment. Frequently patients may only need airway positioning or a nasal or oral airway to achieve adequate ventilation and oxygenation. Others will require more invasive procedures. **The provider should choose the least invasive method that can be employed to achieve adequate ventilation and oxygenation.**
3. Continually reassess the efficacy of the plan and change the plan of action as the patient's needs dictate.
4. In children, a graded approach to airway management is recommended. Basic airway maneuvers and basic adjuncts followed by bag-valve-mask (BVM) ventilation are usually effective.

Procedure Continues 

Procedure Continued**BASIC SKILLS**

Mastery of basic airway skills is paramount to the successful management of a patient with respiratory compromise. Ensure a patent airway with the use of:

- Chin-lift/jaw-thrust
- Nasal airway (contraindicated in head or facial trauma)
- Oral airway
- Suction
- Removal of foreign body.

Provide ventilation with a bag-valve-mask (BVM). Consider using BVM with PEEP valve at 3 cmH₂O. Proper use of the BVM includes appropriate mask selection and positioning to ensure a good seal. If possible, utilization of the BVM is best accomplished with two people: one person uses both hands to seal the mask and position the airway, while the other person provides ventilation. If the patient has some respiratory effort; synchronize ventilations with the patient's own inhalation effort, when possible. Use of PEEP valve can be especially helpful when patient is difficult to ventilate.

ADVANCED AIRWAY SKILLS

Only after basic procedures are deemed inappropriate or have proven to be inadequate should more advanced methods be used. Procedures documenting the use of each device/technique listed below are found elsewhere in this manual.

ETT: The endotracheal tube was once considered the optimal method or “gold standard” for airway management. It is now clear, however, that the incidence of complications is unacceptably high when intubation is performed by inexperienced providers or monitoring of tube placement is inadequate. The optimal method for managing an airway will, therefore, vary based on provider experience, emergency medical services (EMS) or healthcare system characteristics, and the patient's condition.

Bougie: All providers who attempt ETT placement should become intimately familiar with the use of a Bougie. It is the device used most often by anesthesiologists and emergency physicians for helping guide placement when a difficult airway is encountered.

Supraglottic Airways: Utilization of supraglottic airways is an acceptable alternative to endotracheal intubation as both a primary device or a back-up device when previous attempt(s) at ETT placement have failed. Each device has its own set of advantages/disadvantages and requires a unique insertion technique. Providers should have access to, and intimate knowledge of, at least one supraglottic airway. Examples include:

- King LT
- i-gel
- LMA

NIV: Non-invasive ventilation with continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) or high-flow nasal cannula has been shown to be effective in reducing the need for intubation and in decreasing mortality in properly-selected patients with acute respiratory distress.

Procedure Continues

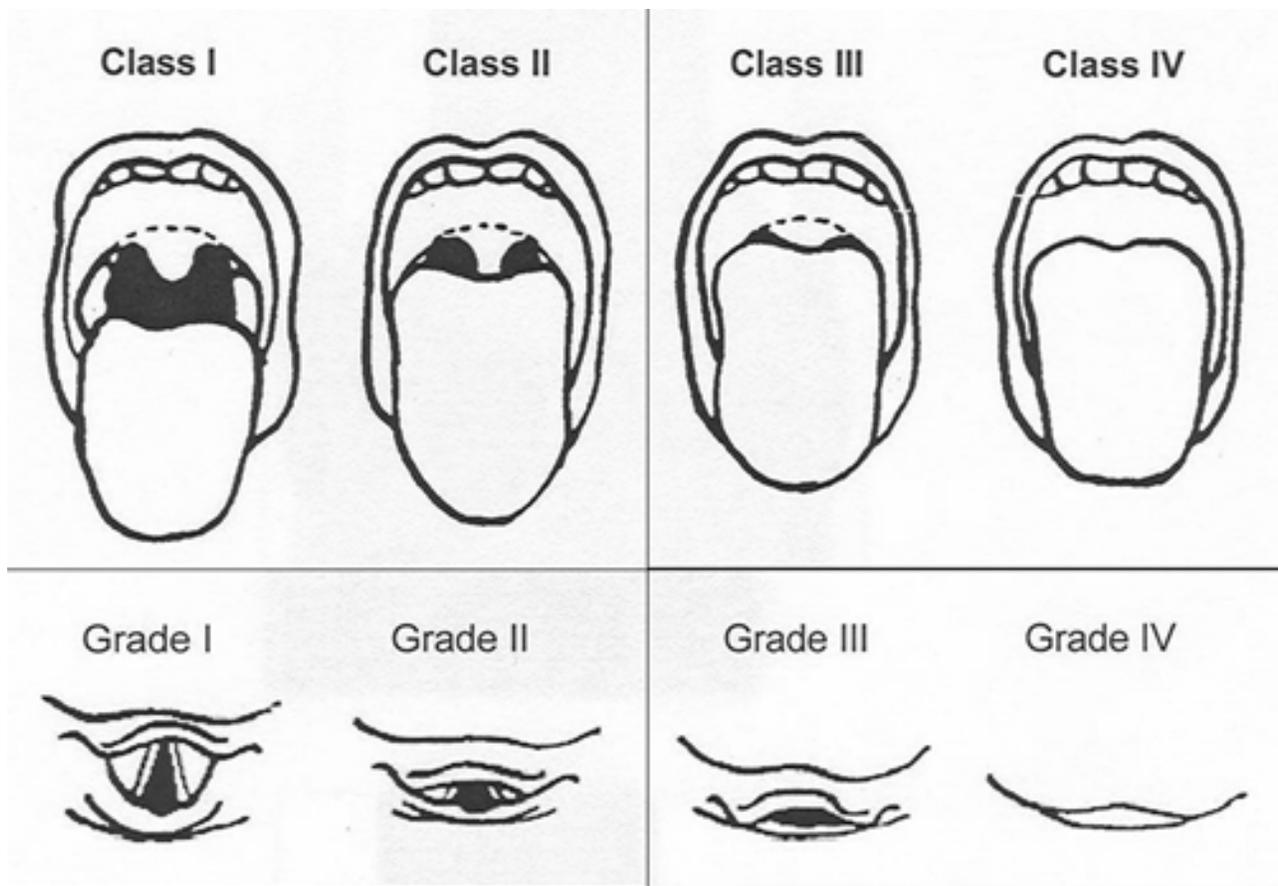


DOCUMENTATION

All efforts toward airway management should be clearly documented and, at the minimum, should include the following:

- Pre/post intervention vital signs including oxygen saturation as well as capnography (if available).
- Procedures performed/attempted, including number of failed attempts and who performed each attempt/procedure.
- Size of device(s) placed, depth of placement (if applicable).
- Placement confirmation: methods should include auscultation, symmetrical chest wall rise, and quantitative waveform capnography, if available.

Classifications for Oropharyngeal and Laryngoscopy Views



5.1A Airway Management – Adult

EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Establish airway patency.
 - Open and maintain the airway.
 - Suctioning as needed.
 - Clear foreign body obstructions.
- Administer oxygen to maintain oxygen saturation $\geq 94\%$.
- Consider inserting an oropharyngeal or nasopharyngeal airway adjunct.
- If patient has a tracheostomy tube, follow the procedure for [Tracheostomy Care Procedure – Adult & Pediatric 5.13](#).
- For apnea or hypoventilation and decreased level of consciousness with possible narcotic overdose, administer naloxone. See [Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose Protocol – Adult 2.18A](#).
- Assist ventilations with a bag-valve-mask device and supplemental oxygen as needed.

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- In cardiac arrest, consider insertion of a supraglottic airway such as a King LT, i-gel or LMA. See procedures for [King LT 5.7](#), [i-gel 5.6](#), and [LMA 5.8](#).
- For adults in severe respiratory distress secondary to pulmonary edema, COPD, asthma, pneumonia, near drowning or undifferentiated respiratory distress, consider use of CPAP. See [CPAP Procedure 5.3](#).

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- For impending respiratory failure with intact gag reflex or trismus: consider nasotracheal intubation. See [Nasotracheal Intubation Procedure 5.9](#)).
- For apnea/respiratory failure or impending respiratory failure with impaired or absent gag reflex: consider supraglottic airway device or orotracheal intubation. See [Orotacheal Intubation 5.10](#), [King LT 5.7](#), [i-gel 5.6](#), and [LMA 5.8](#)).
- For adults with severe airway compromise where respiratory arrest is imminent and other methods of airway management are ineffective: consider Rapid Sequence Intubation. See [Rapid Sequence Intubation Procedure 7.2](#)).
- **Note: This procedure is only to be used by paramedics who are trained and credentialed to perform RSI in accordance with local Medical Direction policy and actively enrolled in an approved Vermont EMS RSI Program.**
- If feasible, place an orogastric tube to decompress the stomach.



Airway Management – Pediatric 5.1P

Airway Protocol 5.1P

EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Establish airway patency.
 - Open and maintain airway.
 - Suction as needed.
 - Clear foreign body obstructions.
 - Consider inserting an oropharyngeal or nasopharyngeal airway adjunct.
- Administer oxygen to maintain oxygen saturation $\geq 94\%$.
- If patient has a tracheostomy tube see [Tracheostomy Care Procedure – Adult & Pediatric 5.13](#).
- For respiratory distress:
 - Administer high concentration oxygen (preferably humidified) via mask positioned on face or if child resists, held near face.
 - Attempt to keep oxygen saturation $\geq 94\%$; increase the oxygen rate with caution and observe for fatigue, decreased mentation, and respiratory failure.
 - For children with chronic lung disease or congenital heart disease, ask caregivers about patient's history, including home oxygen level or patient's target oxygen saturation. Maintain target saturation, and contact **Medical Direction** to discuss oxygenation and appropriate transport destination.

Note: Pulse oximetry is difficult to obtain in children. Do not rely exclusively on pulse oximetry. If child continues to exhibit signs of respiratory distress despite high oxygen saturation levels, continue oxygen administration.
- For respiratory failure or for distress that does not improve with oxygen administration:
 - Assist ventilations with BVM at rate appropriate for child's age. Reference [Pediatric Color Coded Appendix A2](#).
 - If unable to maintain an open airway through positioning, consider placing an oropharyngeal or nasopharyngeal airway.
- Determine if child's respiratory distress/failure is caused by a preexisting condition
 - For Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis, refer to the [Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis Protocol – Pediatric 2.2P](#).
 - For Asthma/Reactive Airway Disease/Croup, refer to the [Asthma/Bronchiolitis/Croup/RAD Protocol – Pediatric 2.4P](#).



ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- For respiratory distress, consider high-flow nasal cannula or CPAP. See [CPAP Protocol 5.3](#).
- For respiratory failure, use most appropriate/least invasive method.
- BVM ventilation is the preferred method of ventilation for pediatric population. However, if unsuccessful, consider placement of supraglottic airway.
 - In cardiac arrest: consider insertion of a supraglottic airway such as a King LT, i-gel or LMA. See procedures for [King LT 5.7](#), [i-gel 5.6](#), and [LMA 5.8](#).

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- Consider an advanced airway if airway cannot be maintained through positioning.
- Prolonged transport time alone should not warrant more invasive interventions.
- See [CPAP Protocol 5.3](#), [Orotracheal Intubation 5.10](#), [King LT 5.7](#), [i-gel 5.6](#), and [LMA 5.8](#).
- If feasible, place an orogastric tube to decompress stomach.

RESPIRATORY DISTRESS:

- Alert, irritable, anxious
- Stridor
- Audible wheezing/grunting
- Respiratory rate outside normal range for child's age
- Sniffing position
- Nasal flaring
- Head bobbing
- Neck muscle use
- Intercostal retractions
- Central cyanosis that resolves with oxygen administration
- Mild tachycardia

RESPIRATORY FAILURE:

- Sleepy, intermittently combative or agitated
- Respiratory rate < 10 breaths per minute
- Absent or shallow respirations with poor air movement
- Severe intercostal retractions
- Paradoxical breathing
- Limp muscle tone
- Inability to sit up
- Cyanosis and/or mottled skin
- Bradycardia

5.2 Automated Transport Ventilator

EMT/ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

INDICATIONS

- Resuscitative efforts:
 - Can only adjust rate, tidal volume, and adult vs. child setting if applicable.
- Any patient requiring ventilatory assistance in conjunction with advanced airway adjuncts.
- Any patient requiring ventilatory assistance in conjunction with basic airway maintenance.
- Any patient requiring ventilatory assistance in conjunction with manual airway maintenance.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Airway obstruction
- Resistance
- Poor lung compliance
- Pneumothorax – tension pneumothorax
- Pulmonary over-pressurization (blast injury, water ascent injury, etc.)
- Children less than 5 years of age or 16 kg (35 lbs). Check manufacturer's recommendations.

PROCEDURES

1. Determine that a need for the automated transport ventilator (ATV) exists. Follow manufacturer's instructions for the device.
2. Assure that all tubing is free from kinks.
3. Determine the proper tidal volume setting. This is done by determining the patient's ideal weight (approx. weight for any physically fit patient having the same sex, height, frame) and multiplying it by 6-8 mL/kg. Begin with the lowest tidal volume limit.

E/A/P

Airway Procedure 5.2

MALE		
Height in Ft/In	6 mL/kg	8 mL/kg
5.0	300	400
5.1	314	418
5.2	328	437
5.3	341	455
5.4	355	474
5.5	369	492
5.6	383	510
5.7	397	529
5.8	410	547
5.9	424	566
5.10	438	584
5.11	452	602
6.0	466	621
6.1	479	639

FEMALE		
Height in Ft/In	6 mL/kg	8 mL/kg
5.0	273	364
5.1	287	382
5.2	301	401
5.3	314	419
5.4	328	438
5.5	342	456
5.6	356	474
5.7	370	493
5.8	383	511
5.9	397	530
5.10	411	548
5.11	425	566
6.0	439	585
6.1	452	603



Automated Transport Ventilator 5.2

Procedure Continues

EMT/ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

PROCEDURES (continued)

4. Set Breaths per Minute (BPM) control to rate of 8-15 per minute.
5. Check alarm by occluding the patient valve assembly outlet. The audible pressure limit alarm should sound as the ventilator cycles through the delivery phase.
6. Assess lung compliance and chest rise with a bag valve device. Tidal volume may be adjusted lower if poor lung compliance is found.
7. Attach the patient valve assembly to the airway device or mask used on the patient.
8. Assess the ventilation. Listen for bilateral lung sounds. Observe for proper chest rise. Chest rise should be symmetrical and patient condition should improve.
9. Count the number of complete ventilator cycles for a full minute. The number should be the same as the setting (+/-1).
10. Assess and manage the airway as you normally would for any patient with controlled ventilation.
11. If spontaneous breathing begins, it may be desirable to turn the BPM down as long as patient's spontaneous rate is 10-12 per minute.
12. Check oxygen cylinder pressure level frequently. This device will deplete a "D" cylinder rapidly.

E/
A/
P

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Due to COPD, chest rise may not appear full Do not increase tidal volume (TV) past upper TV limit.
- If lung sounds are absent or on one side only: rule out airway obstruction, improper tube placement, or pneumothorax, and check tidal volume ml/bpm settings.
- If chest expansion is not adequate, the rescuer should slowly increase tidal volume until chest expansion is adequate, or the uppermost limit (for the patient's ideal weight) is reached.
- If chest appears to over expand, decrease tidal volume.

Airway Procedure 5.2

5.3 Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) – Adult & Pediatric

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS – ADULT & PEDIATRIC INDICATIONS

- Spontaneously breathing patient in moderate to severe respiratory distress due to congestive heart failure/pulmonary edema, asthma/COPD, pneumonia, submersion injury or Undifferentiated Respiratory Distress, concurrent with the following signs and symptoms:
 - Oxygen saturation < 94%
 - Retractions or accessory muscle use
 - Adult respiratory rate > 25 (see chart for pediatric)

Pediatric Respiratory Distress		
	Age	Resp Rate
Infant	0 - 1 year	> 60
Toddler	1 - 3 years	>40
Preschooler	4 - 5 years	>34
School Age	6 - 12 years	>30
Teen	13 and older	>25

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Cardiac or respiratory arrest/apnea
- Unable to follow commands
- Unable to maintain their own airway
- Agitated or combative behavior and unable to tolerate mask
- Vomiting and/or active GI bleed
- Respiratory distress secondary to trauma
- Suspicion of pneumothorax
- Facial trauma or impossible face seal
- Hypotension with SBP < 100 mmHg (pediatric SBP < 70 + (age in years x 2))



A

PROCEDURE

1. **Ensure adequate oxygen supply for CPAP device.**
2. Explain procedure to patient. Be prepared to coach patient for claustrophobia or anxiety.
3. Place patient in upright position. Apply pulse oximetry, capnography and nasal capture device.
4. Choose appropriate sized device mask for patient, assemble the CPAP device, attach to oxygen supply and insure oxygen is flowing (follow manufacturers directions for preparation for your particular device).
5. Place mask over face and secure with straps until minimal air leak.
6. Adjust pressure to 5 – 15 cm H₂O to effect for patient condition.
7. Recheck mask for leaks and adjust straps as needed to minimize air leaks.
8. Reassure anxious patient.
9. Monitor vital signs and symptoms, pulse oximetry and quantitative waveform capnography.
10. If patient improves, maintain CPAP for duration of transport and notify receiving hospital to prepare for a CPAP patient.
11. If patient begins to deteriorate, discontinue CPAP and assist respirations by BVM.
12. Document CPAP procedure, including time and provider. Document serial pulse oximetry and capnography readings to demonstrate effects.

PARAMEDIC MEDICAL DIRECTION ORDERS – ADULT ONLY (CONTACT MEDICAL DIRECTION FOR PEDIATRIC DOSING)

P



- Consider administering anxiolytic. **Contact Medical Direction for authorization.**
 - Midazolam 2.5 mg IV/intranasal, may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR** 5 mg IM may repeat once in 10 minutes **OR**
 - Lorazepam 0.5 – 1 mg IV, may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR** 1 – 2 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes **OR**
 - Diazepam 5 mg IV (may repeat once in 5 minutes).



Administer benzodiazepines with caution in patients with signs of hypercarbia.

EMT/ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

INDICATIONS

- Sudden onset of respiratory distress often with coughing, wheezing, gagging or stridor due to a foreign-body obstruction of the upper airway.

PROCEDURE

- Routine Patient Care
 - Assess the degree of foreign body obstruction.
 - Do not interfere with a mild obstruction allowing the patient to clear their airway by coughing.
 - In severe foreign-body obstructions, the patient may not be able to make a sound. The victim may clutch his/her neck in the universal choking sign.
- **For an infant:** Deliver 5 back blows followed by 5 chest thrusts repeatedly until the object is expelled or the victim becomes unresponsive.
- **For a child:** Perform subdiaphragmatic abdominal thrusts (Heimlich Maneuver) until the object is expelled or the victim becomes unresponsive.
- **For adults:** A combination of maneuvers may be required,
 - First, subdiaphragmatic abdominal thrusts (Heimlich Maneuver) should be used in rapid sequence until the obstruction is relieved.
 - If abdominal thrusts are ineffective, chest thrusts should be used. Chest thrusts should be used primarily in morbidly obese patients and in patients who are in the late stages of pregnancy.
- If the victim becomes unresponsive, begin CPR immediately but look in the mouth before administering any ventilations. If a foreign-body is visible, remove.
- **Do not perform blind finger sweeps in the mouth and posterior pharynx. This may push the object farther into the airway.**

E/A



PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

- In unresponsive patients, visualize the posterior pharynx with a laryngoscope to potentially identify and remove the foreign-body using Magill forceps.
- If unable to remove object, or if obstruction is secondary to trauma or edema, or if uncontrollable bleeding into the airway causes life-threatening ventilation impairment, perform endotracheal intubation. See [Orotracheal Intubation Protocol 5.10](#).
- Consider forced right mainstem intubation (with pullback) to allow for ventilation of left lung in the extreme event of lower tracheal foreign body obstruction and inability to ventilate.
- If unable to intubate and the patient cannot be adequately ventilated by other means, perform percutaneous cricothyrotomy. See [Percutaneous Cricothyrotomy Protocol 5.11](#).

P

PEARLS

If air exchange is adequate with a partial airway obstruction, do not interfere; instead, encourage the patient to cough up the obstruction. Continue to monitor the patient for adequacy of air exchange. If air exchange becomes inadequate, continue with the protocol.

5.5 Gum Elastic Bougie/Flexguide

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS – ADULT

INDICATIONS

- Unable to fully visualize vocal cords during an intubation attempt.

PROCEDURE

1. Choose appropriately-sized Bougie: adult, pediatric or neonatal.
2. Lubricate Bougie with water-based lubricant.
3. Using a laryngoscope (Macintosh or Miller blade) and standard ETT intubation techniques, attempt to visualize the vocal cords.
4. If the vocal cords are partially visualized, pass the Bougie through the cords while attempting to feel the signs of tracheal placement (see below). The Bougie is advanced until the black line on the Bougie reaches the lip line.
5. If the vocal cords are not visualized, pass the Bougie behind the epiglottis, guiding the tip of the Bougie anteriorly towards the trachea, and assess for signs of tracheal placement (see below).
6. With the laryngoscope still in place, have an assistant load the ETT over the Bougie and slide it to the level of the lip line.
7. Advance the ETT over the Bougie, rotating the ETT about 1/4 turn counterclockwise so that the bevel is oriented vertically as the ETT passes through the vocal cords. This maneuver allows the bevel to gently spread the arytenoids with a minimum of force, thus avoiding injury. If resistance is felt, withdraw the ETT, rotating it in a slightly more counterclockwise direction, and advance the tube again. Advance the tube to a lip-line of 24 cm in an adult male, and 22 cm in an adult female.
8. Holding the ETT firmly in place, have an assistant remove the Bougie.
9. Remove the laryngoscope.
10. Inflate the cuff with 5 – 10 mL of air.
11. Follow the procedures outlined in [Orotracheal Intubation Protocol 5.10](#) to confirm placement, secure the ETT, monitor and document placement of the ETT.

SIGNS OF TRACHEAL PLACEMENT

- The Bougie is felt to stop or get “caught up” as the airway narrows and is unable to be advanced further. This is the most reliable sign of proper Bougie placement. If the Bougie enters the esophagus, it will continue to advance without resistance.
- It may be possible to feel the tactile sensation of “clicking” as the Bougie tip is advanced downward over the rigid cartilaginous tracheal rings.
- The Bougie can be felt to rotate as it enters a mainstem bronchus. Usually it is a clockwise rotation as the Bougie enters the right mainstem bronchus, but occasionally it will rotate counterclockwise if the Bougie enters the left mainstem bronchus.
- If the patient is not paralyzed, he/she may cough.

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS – ADULT & PEDIATRIC IN CARDIAC ARREST ONLY PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS – ADULT & PEDIATRIC

INDICATIONS

- Inability to adequately ventilate a patient with a bag-valve-mask or longer EMS transports requiring a more definitive airway. Prolonged transport time alone should not warrant more invasive interventions.
- Back-up device for failed endotracheal intubation attempt. Patient must be unconscious.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Intact gag reflex.
- Severe maxillofacial or oropharyngeal trauma.

RELATIVE CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Ingestion of a caustic substance.
- Burns involving the airway.
- Known esophageal disease (e.g. cancer).

PROCEDURE

1. Estimate ideal body weight from length-based resuscitation tape for pediatric patient.

Choose correct size.



i-gel size	Patient size	Patient weight guidance (kg)
1	Neonate	2-5
1.5	Infant	5-12
2	Small pediatric	10-25
2.5	Large pediatric	25-35
3	Small adult	30-60
4	Medium adult	50-90
5	Large adult+	90+

2. Prepare i-gel. Refer to manufacturer's guidelines. Open packaging and set up equipment. Pre-oxygenate the patient if possible.
3. Open the lubricant and place a small bolus on the inner side of the main shell of the packaging.
4. Lubricate the back, sides and front of the i-gel with a thin layer of enclosed lubricant.
5. Grasping the i-gel firmly along the bite block, place the patient in the sniffing position (unless contraindicated) with the head extended and the neck flexed.
6. Position the device so that the i-gel O2 cuff outlet is facing the patient. Introduce the leading soft tip into the mouth of the patient in the direction of the hard palate.
7. Glide the device downwards and backwards along the hard palate with a continuous but gentle push until a definitive resistance is felt.
8. The tip of the airway should be located into the upper esophageal opening with the cuff located against the laryngeal framework. The incisors should be resting on the bite block.
9. For sizes 3-5, secure the device by sliding the strap underneath the patient's neck and attaching to the hook ring. Take care to ensure the strap is not secured too tight. For sizes 1-2.5, the device can be secured by taping maxilla to maxilla.
10. Commence with positive pressure ventilation per appropriate protocols.
11. Reassess tube placement frequently, especially after movement of the patient.
12. Document the time, provider, provider level and success for the procedure. Complete all applicable airway confirmation fields including chest rise, bilateral, equal breath sounds, absence of epigastric sounds and end-tidal CO₂ readings.

A/P

Pearls

- Insertion can be achieved in less than 5 seconds.
- Sometimes a feel of "give-way" is felt before the end point resistance is met. This is due to the passage of the bowl of the i-gel through the faucial pillars. It is important to continue to insert the device until a definitive resistance is felt.
- Once correct insertion is achieved and the teeth are located on the integral bite block, do not repeatedly push down or apply excessive force during insertion.
- If there is resistance, remove, re-lubricate, and reposition the airway before repeat insertion. No more than three (3) attempts on one patient should be attempted.
- It is not necessary to insert fingers or thumbs into the patient's mouth during insertion.
- Use supplemental oxygen port for delivery of passive oxygenation as part of an appropriate CardioCerebral Resuscitation (CCR) protocol.
- If required, an appropriate size nasogastric tube may be passed down the gastric channel.

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS – ADULT & PEDIATRIC IN CARDIAC ARREST ONLY
PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS – ADULT & PEDIATRIC
INDICATIONS

- Inability to adequately ventilate a patient with a bag-valve-mask or longer EMS transports requiring a more definitive airway.
- Back-up device for failed endotracheal intubation attempt. Patient must be unconscious.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Intact gag reflex.
- Severe maxillofacial or oropharyngeal trauma.

RELATIVE CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Ingestion of a caustic substance.
- Burns involving the airway.
- Known esophageal disease (e.g. cancer).

PROCEDURE

1. Choose correct size:



Size	Color	Height	Cuff Volume (mL)
2	Green	35 - 45 inches	30
2.5	Orange	45 - 51 inches	35
3	Yellow	4 - 5 feet	50
4	Red	5 - 6 feet	70
5	Purple	6+ feet	80

2. Prepare King LT (refer to manufacturer's guidelines for use)
Test cuffs for leaks (see volume above).
Lubricate device with water soluble lubricant.
3. Pre-oxygenate and ventilate the patient, if time permits.
4. Grasp the patient's tongue and jaw with your gloved hand and pull forward.
5. With the King LT rotated laterally at 45 – 90 degrees such that the blue orientation line is touching the corner of the mouth, introduce tip into mouth and advance behind base of tongue.
6. As tube tip passes under tongue, rotate tube back to midline (blue orientation line faces chin.)
7. Advance tube until base of connector is aligned with teeth or gums.
8. Inflate cuffs to appropriate volume as listed above.
9. Connect the King LT to a bag-valve device
10. While ventilating the patient, gently withdraw the tube until ventilation becomes easy and free flowing.
11. Adjust cuff inflation if necessary to obtain a seal of the airway at the peak ventilatory pressure employed.
12. Confirm appropriate placement by symmetrical chest-wall rise, auscultation of equal breath sounds over the chest and a lack of epigastric sounds with bagging, and quantitative waveform capnography if available.
13. Secure the device.
14. Reassess tube placement frequently, especially after movement of the patient.
15. Document the time, provider, provider level and success for the procedure.
Complete all applicable airway confirmation fields including chest rise, bilateral, equal breath sounds, absence of epigastric sounds and end-tidal CO₂ readings.

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P

Laryngeal Mask Airway (LMA) 5.8

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS – ADULT & PEDIATRIC IN CARDIAC ARREST ONLY PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS – ADULT & PEDIATRIC

INDICATIONS

- Inability to adequately ventilate a patient with a bag-valve-mask or longer EMS transports requiring a more definitive airway.
- Back-up device for failed endotracheal intubation attempt in a patient.
- Patient must be unconscious.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Intact gag reflex.
- Severe maxillofacial or oropharyngeal trauma.
- Pregnancy > 14 weeks.
- Pulmonary Fibrosis.
- Active vomiting.

RELATIVE CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Known esophageal disease (e.g. cancer).
- Ingestion of a caustic substance.
- Burns involving the airway.
- Morbid obesity.

PROCEDURE

1. Choose correct size: (Advanced EMT— Adult ONLY)

Mask	Patient Size	Cuff Volume
1	Neonate/Infants up to 5 kg	Up to 4 mL
1.5	Infants 5 – 10 kg	Up to 7 mL
2	Infants/Children 10 – 20 kg	Up to 10 mL
2.5	Children 20 – 30 kg	Up to 14 mL
3	Children 30 – 50 kg	Up to 20 mL
4	Adults 50 – 70 kg	Up to 30 mL
5	Adults 70 – 100 kg	Up to 40 mL
6	Large Adults over 100 kg	Up to 50 mL

2. Check cuff for proper inflation/deflation and leaks.
3. Lubricate the back of the mask with a water-soluble jelly.
4. Pre-oxygenate the patient.
5. Insert the LMA into the hypopharynx until resistance is met. Inflate the cuff until a seal is obtained.
(Note: This airway does not prevent aspiration of stomach contents.)
6. Connect the LMA to a bag-valve device and ventilate the patient.
7. Confirm appropriate placement by symmetrical chest-wall rise, auscultation of equal breath sounds over the chest, and a lack of epigastric sounds with ventilation using bag-valve-mask, and quantitative waveform capnography, if available.
8. Secure the device.
9. Reassess tube placement frequently, especially after movement of the patient.
10. Document the time, provider, provider level and success for the procedure. Complete all applicable airway confirmation fields including chest rise, bilateral, equal breath sounds, absence of epigastric sounds and end-tidal CO₂ readings.

A/P



5.9

Nasotracheal Intubation

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS – ADULT

INDICATIONS

- Impending respiratory failure with intact gag reflex, or jaw is clenched and unable to be opened in spontaneously breathing patient.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Apnea.
- Nasal obstruction.
- Suspected basilar skull fracture.
- Severe facial trauma or suspected facial fractures.
- Patient fits on a pediatric length-based resuscitation tape.

PROCEDURE

1. Pre-medicate nasal mucosa with 2% lidocaine jelly and vasoconstricting nasal decongestant spray such as neo-synephrine, if available.
2. Pre-oxygenate the patient.
3. Select the largest and least obstructed nostril and insert a lubricated nasal airway.
4. Lubricate the ETT with water-based lubricant.
5. Remove the nasal airway and gently insert the ETT with continuous quantitative waveform capnography monitoring, keeping the bevel toward the septum (a gentle rotation movement may be necessary at the turbinates).
6. Continue to advance the ETT while listening for maximum air movement and watching for capnography waveform. Consider use of BAAM device to aid in listening to airflow.
7. At the point of maximum air movement, indicating proximity to the level of the glottis, gently and evenly advance the tube through the glottic opening on inspiration.
 - If resistance is encountered, the tube may have become lodged into the pyriform sinus and you may note tenting of the skin on either side of the thyroid cartilage. If this happens, slightly withdraw the ETT and rotate it toward the midline and attempt to advance tube again with the next inspiration.
8. Upon entering the trachea, the tube may cause the patient to cough, buck, strain, or gag. This is normal. Do not remove the ETT. Be prepared to control the cervical spine and be alert for vomiting.
9. Placement depth should be from the nares to the tip of the tube: approximately 28 cm in males and 26 cm in females.
10. Inflate cuff with 5 – 10 mL of air.
11. Confirm appropriate placement by quantitative waveform capnography, symmetrical chest-wall rise, auscultation of equal breath sounds over the chest, a lack of epigastric sounds with bagging.
12. Secure the ETT, consider applying a cervical-collar and securing patient to a long backboard (even for the medical patient) to protect the placement of the ETT.

P

Airway Procedure 5.9

Procedure Continues 

Procedure Continued

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

13. Ongoing monitoring of ETT placement and ventilation status using waveform capnography is required for all patients.
14. Document each attempt as a separate procedure in SIREN. **An attempt is defined as placement of the tube into the patient's nostril.** For each attempt, document the time, provider, placement success, pre-oxygenation, ETT size, placement depth, placement landmark (e.g. cm at the nare), and confirmation of tube placement including chest rise, bilateral, equal breath sounds, absence of epigastric sounds and end-tidal CO₂ readings.

Sedation is not usually necessary following nasotracheal intubation.

POST INTUBATION CARE

Sedation:

- Midazolam 2.5 – 5 mg IV/IO, every 5 – 10 minutes as needed for sedation (maximum 20 mg) **OR**
- Lorazepam 1 – 2 mg IV/IO every 15 minutes as needed for sedation (maximum 10 mg) **AND**
- Fentanyl 50 – 100 mcg slow IV/IO push. May repeat every 15 minutes as needed for anesthesia (maximum 300 mcg).

Contact **Medical Direction** for additional dosing.

5.10

Orotracheal Intubation

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS – ADULT & PEDIATRIC

INDICATIONS

- Apnea/respiratory failure. Impending respiratory failure. Impaired or absent gag reflex. Only after basic procedures are deemed inappropriate or have proven to be inadequate should more advanced methods be used.

CONTRAINDICATION

- Epiglottitis.
- Facial or neck injuries that prohibit visualization of airway anatomy (relative).

CAUTIONS

- Pediatric patients should, at least initially, be managed with BVM/SGA.
- Patients with CHF should be managed with trial of CPAP, if possible.
- Avoid intubating patients with severe TBI and asthmatics, if possible.



PROCEDURE

1. Prepare all equipment. Have suction and Bougie ready.
2. Pre-oxygenate the patient with high-concentration oxygen. Three-minute minimum of BVM ventilation or if patient is breathing, assure 8 vital capacity breaths with NRB. Apply continuous nasal cannula at 15 LPM.
3. Assess for airway difficulty based on patient anatomy (e.g., short neck, obesity, decreased thyromental distance and Class III or IV oropharyngeal views on observation). Have fallback plan and equipment ready.
4. Open the patient's airway. While holding the laryngoscope in the left hand, insert the blade into the right side of the patient's mouth, sweeping the tongue to the left. Use video laryngoscopy, if available and trained.
5. Use the blade to lift the tongue and the epiglottis, either directly with the straight (Miller) blade, or indirectly with the curved (Macintosh) blade.
6. Once the glottic opening is visualized, insert the tube through the vocal cords and continue to visualize while passing the cuff through the cords.
7. Remove the laryngoscope and then the stylet from the ETT.
8. Inflate the cuff with 5 – 10 mL of air.
9. Confirm appropriate proper placement with quantitative waveform capnography and also document symmetrical chest-wall rise, auscultation of equal breath sounds over the chest and a lack of epigastric sounds with ventilations using bag-valve-mask
10. Secure the ETT with a commercial device. Consider applying a cervical collar to minimize head and neck motion during movement and transport.
11. Reassess tube placement frequently, especially after movement of the patient.
12. Ongoing monitoring of ETT placement and ventilation status using waveform capnography is required for all patients.
13. Document each attempt as a separate procedure so it can be time stamped in the ePCR. **An attempt is defined as placement of the blade into the patient's mouth.** For each attempt, document the time, provider, placement success, pre-oxygenation, airway grade, ETT size, placement depth, placement landmark (e.g. cm at the patient's lip), and confirmation of tube placement including chest rise, bilateral, equal breath sounds, absence of epigastric sounds and end-tidal CO₂ readings.

P

Airway Procedure 5.10

Procedure Continues 

← Procedure Continued

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS – ADULT & PEDIATRIC

If intubation attempt is unsuccessful, ETT placement cannot be verified or ETT becomes dislodged:

- Monitor oxygen saturation and end-tidal CO₂ **AND**
- Ventilate the patient with 100% oxygen via a BVM until ready to attempt intubation again.

If continued intubation attempts are unsuccessful (maximum of 3 attempts for cardiac arrest) or BVM ventilation is not adequate, consider placing a supraglottic airway. For a viable patient whose airway cannot be successfully managed by any other means, consider [Percutaneous Cricothyrotomy 5.11](#).

POST INTUBATION CARE

Sedation:

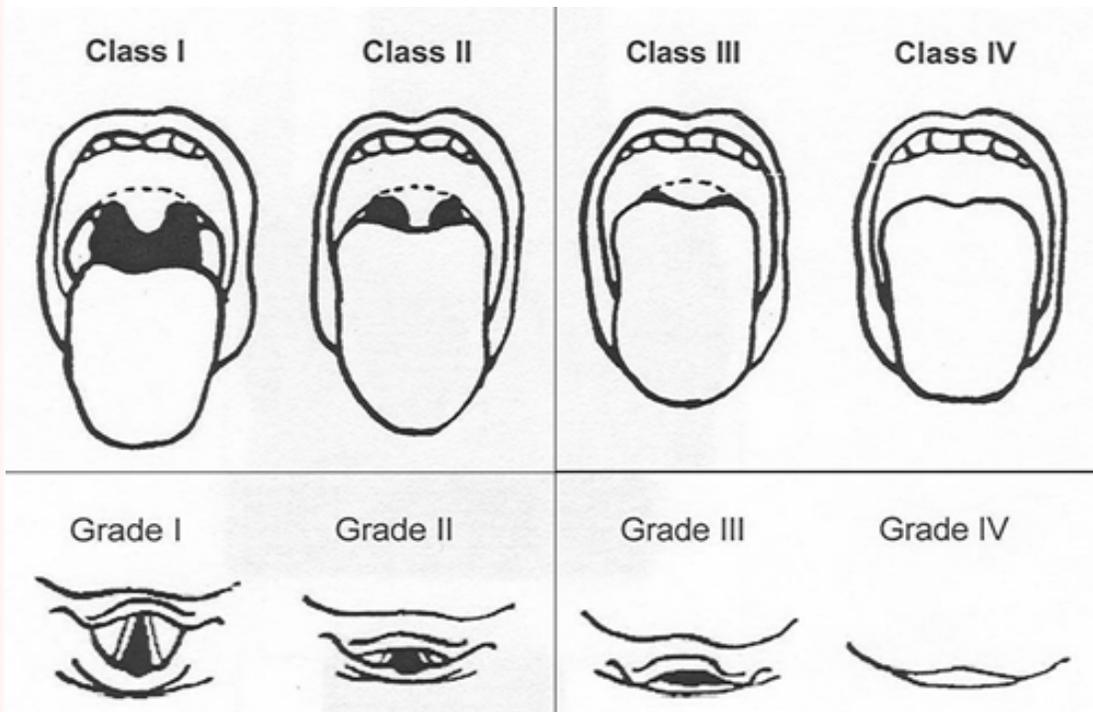
- Midazolam 2.5 – 5 mg IV/IO (pediatric dose 0.1 mg/kg IV/IO), every 5 – 10 minutes as needed for sedation (maximum 20 mg) **OR**
- Lorazepam 1 – 2 mg IV/IO (pediatric dose 0.1 mg/kg IV/IO), may repeat every 15 minutes as needed for sedation (maximum 10 mg) **AND**
- Fentanyl 50 – 100 mcg (pediatric dose 1 mcg/kg), slow IV/IO push. May repeat every 15 minutes as needed for anesthesia (maximum 300 mcg).

Contact **Medical Direction** for additional dosing.

Video-Laryngoscope: If available and trained, use video laryngoscope instead of manual laryngoscope. Video-laryngoscopy has been shown to have better success rates than manual laryngoscopy and should be used if available.



Classifications of Oropharyngeal and Laryngoscopy Views



5.11 Percutaneous Cricothyrotomy

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

INDICATIONS

- Failed airway: Viable patient whose airway cannot be successfully managed by any other means.
 - All other methods have been exhausted including BVM, blind airway device, and intubation attempts;
 - Massive mid-face trauma precluding use of BVM, obstruction, trismus (clenching);
 - Inability to control the airway using less invasive measures;
 - Last Resort: All other airway management techniques have failed. Unable to ventilate or oxygenate patient.

PROCEDURE

1. Can use Rusch QuickTrach or other approved device. Choose appropriate sized device.
2. Pre-oxygenate patient when possible.
3. Assemble all available additional personnel.
4. Locate cricothyroid membrane at the inferior portion of the thyroid cartilage (with head in neutral position, membrane is approximately 3 finger widths above the sternal notch). May be difficult to locate in obese patients.
5. Hold skin taut over membrane and locate the midline.
6. Prep area, preferably with betadine.
7. Hold the needle bevel up at a 90-degree angle, aimed inferiorly as you approach the skin.
8. Puncture the skin with the needle and continue with firm, steady pressure while aspirating for air with the syringe.
9. As soon as air is aspirated freely, stop advancing the needle/airway assembly.
10. Modify the angle to 60 degrees from the head and advance to level of the stopper.
11. Remove the stopper while holding the needle/airway assembly firmly in place.
12. Do not advance the needle further. (NOTE: if the patient is obese and no air can be aspirated with the stopper in place, you may remove the stopper and continue advancing until air is aspirated. Be aware that without the stopper, risk of perforating the posterior aspect of the trachea is greatly increased.)
13. Hold the needle and syringe firmly and slide only the plastic cannula along the needle into the trachea until the flange rests on the neck. Carefully remove the needle and syringe.
14. Secure the cannula with the neck strap.
15. Apply the EtCO₂ detector, then the connecting tube to the EtCO₂ detector and connect the other end to the BVM.
16. Confirm placement with the use of breath sounds, pulse ox, EtCO₂ and waveform capnography.
17. Ensure 100% FiO₂ to BVM via supplemental O₂.

Suctioning of Inserted Airway 5.12

ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

INDICATIONS

- Obstruction of the airway (secondary to secretions, blood, and/or any other substance) in a patient currently being assisted by an inserted airway such as an endotracheal tube, King LTD, i-gel, or tracheostomy tube.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- None.

PROCEDURE

1. Ensure the suction device is operable.
2. Pre-oxygenate the patient.
3. While maintaining aseptic technique, attach the suction catheter to the suction unit.
4. If applicable, remove ventilation device from the airway.
5. Insert the sterile end of the suction catheter into the tube without suction. Insert to proper depth so that suction catheter does not extend past the tube/device.
6. Once the desired depth is met, apply suction by occluding the port of the suction catheter and slowly remove the catheter from the tube using a twisting motion.
7. Suctioning duration should not exceed 10 seconds, using lowest pressure that effectively removes secretions.
8. Saline flush may be used to help loosen secretions and facilitate suctioning.
9. Re-attach the ventilation device to the patient.

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EMT/ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

INDICATIONS

- An adult or pediatric patient with an established tracheostomy in respiratory distress or failure.

PROCEDURE

1. Consult with the patient's caregivers for assistance.
2. Assess tracheostomy tube. Look for possible causes of distress (DOPES) which may be easily correctable, such as a detached oxygen source.
3. If the patient's breathing is adequate but exhibits continued signs of respiratory distress, administer high-flow oxygen via non-rebreather mask or blow-by, as tolerated, over the tracheostomy.
4. If patient's breathing is inadequate, assist ventilations using bag-valve-mask device with high-flow oxygen.
5. If on a ventilator, remove the patient from the ventilator prior to using bag valve mask device as there may be a problem with the ventilator or oxygen source.
6. Suction if unable to ventilate via tracheostomy or if respiratory distress continues.
7. Use no more than 100 mmHg suction pressure.
8. If the tracheostomy tube has a cannula, remove it prior to suctioning.
9. Determine proper suction catheter length by measuring the obturator.
10. If the obturator is unavailable, insert the suction catheter approximately 2 – 3 inches into the tracheostomy tube. **Do not use force!**
11. 2 – 3 mL saline flush may be used to help loosen secretions.
12. If the patient remains in severe distress, continue ventilation attempts using bag valve mask with high-flow oxygen via the tracheostomy. Consider underlying reasons for respiratory distress and refer to the appropriate protocol for intervention.

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PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

INDICATIONS

- An adult or pediatric patient with an established tracheostomy, in respiratory distress or failure where EMT and Advanced EMT tracheostomy interventions have been unsuccessful.
- Dislodged tracheostomy tube.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- None.

PROCEDURE

1. If the patient remains in severe respiratory distress, remove tracheostomy tube and attempt bag valve mask ventilation.
2. If another tube is available from caregivers, insert into stoma and resume ventilation (a standard endotracheal tube may be used or the used tracheostomy tube, after being cleaned).
3. If unable to replace tube with another tracheostomy tube or endotracheal tube, assist ventilations with bag valve mask and high-flow oxygen.

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Advanced Spinal Assessment 6.0

EMT/ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

PURPOSE: This protocol provides guidance regarding the assessment and care of patients who have a possible spinal injury, utilizing **spinal motion restriction**. **Spinal motion restriction** is defined as application of a cervical collar and maintenance of the spine in neutral alignment. Determination that immobilization devices should be used should be made by the highest level EMS provider. All steps of spinal assessment algorithm below must be documented in the ePCR.

All patients that have a mechanism of injury that could cause a spinal injury, including high risk or questionable injury mechanisms, should have a spinal assessment.

Spinal Assessment: Spinal motion restriction is required when ANY of the following conditions apply: (See [Spinal Motion Restriction Protocol 4.5](#))

- Unreliable patient:
 - Child who cannot participate in assessment.
 - Anxious and/or uncooperative.
 - Communication barriers (e.g., deafness, hard of hearing, language, understanding).
 - Altered mental status (not alert and oriented x 3).
 - Evidence of alcohol or drug intoxication.
 - Distracted by circumstances or injuries to self or others (ie, any other injury capable of producing significant pain in this patient).
- Any abnormal neurological function in extremities (check all 4 extremities):
 - Numbness or tingling (paresthesia).
 - Motor strength not full and symmetrical.
 - Sensation not intact and symmetrical.
- Midline tenderness on palpation:
 - Explain to the patient the actions that you are going to take. Ask the patient to immediately report any pain, and to answer questions with a “yes” or “no” rather than shaking the head.
 - With the patient’s spine supported to limit movement, begin palpation at the base of the skull at the midline of the spine.
 - Palpate the vertebrae individually from the base of the skull to the bottom of the sacrum.
 - On palpation of each vertebral body, look for evidence of pain and ask the patient if they are experiencing pain. If evidence of pain along the spinal column is encountered, utilize spinal motion restriction.
- Pain with movement of neck (cervical flexion, extension and rotation).
 - If the capable patient is found to be pain free, ask the patient to turn their head first to one side (so that the chin is pointing toward the shoulder on the same side as the head is rotating) then, if pain free, to the other. If there is evidence of pain, utilize spinal motion restriction.
 - With the head rotated back to its normal position, ask the patient to flex and extend their neck. If there is evidence of pain, utilize spinal motion restriction. **Do not assist patient in attempts to rotate neck.**

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High risk mechanisms include:

- Motor vehicle crash >60 mph, rollover, ejection. Simple low-speed, rear-end MVC can usually be excluded. (Simple low-speed collision does not include: Being pushed into oncoming traffic, being hit by a bus or large truck, rollover, or being hit by a high-speed vehicle.)
- Falls >3 feet/5 stairs. Patients >65 years or with a high-risk history such as osteoporosis should be given extra consideration, including falls from standing.
- Axial load to head/neck (e.g., diving accident, heavy object falling onto head, contact sports).
- Significant injury or mechanism of injury above the clavicle.
- Injuries involving motorized recreational vehicles.
- Bicycle or pedestrian struck/collision.



6.0 Advanced Spinal Assessment

Medical Procedure 6.0

Mechanism of injury that could cause a spinal injury, including high risk or questionable injury mechanisms



Child Unable to Participate

YES

Patient Anxious and/or Uncooperative, OR Difficulty Understanding

YES

Altered Mental Status OR Evidence of Intoxication

YES

Distracting Injuries Patient or Others

YES

Abnormal Neurological Function

YES

Spinal Pain Tenderness on Palpation (Torticollis in Pediatrics)

YES

Complains of Pain When Patient Tries to Flex, Extend or Rotate Neck

YES

Spinal Motion Restriction Unnecessary

SPINAL MOTION RESTRICTION REQUIRED

All patients that have a mechanism of injury that could cause a spinal injury, including high risk or questionable injury mechanisms, should have a spinal assessment. All steps of spinal assessment algorithm below must be documented in the ePCR.

- High risk mechanisms include:**
- Motor vehicle crash >60 mph, rollover, ejection. Simple low-speed, rear-end MVC can usually be excluded. (Simple low-speed collision does not include: Being pushed into oncoming traffic, being hit by a bus or large truck, rollover, or being hit by a high-speed vehicle.)
 - Falls >3 feet/5 stairs. Patients >65 years or with a high-risk history such as osteoporosis should be given extra consideration, including falls from standing.
 - Axial load to head/neck (e.g., diving accident, heavy object falling onto head, contact sports).
 - Significant injury or mechanism of injury above the clavicle.
 - Injuries involving motorized recreational vehicles.
 - Bicycle or pedestrian struck/collision.

Double Sequential Defibrillation – Adult

6.1

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS – ADULT

INDICATION: Refractory Ventricular Fibrillation / Tachycardia after 5 unsuccessful shocks and a second manual defibrillator is available.

- **Recurrent ventricular fibrillation/tachycardia** is defined as SUCCESSFULLY CONVERTED by standard defibrillation techniques but subsequently returns. It should NOT be treated by double sequential external defibrillation. It is managed by treatment of correctable causes and use of anti-arrhythmic medications in addition to standard defibrillation
- **Refractory ventricular fibrillation/tachycardia** is defined as NOT CONVERTED by standard defibrillation. It is initially managed by treating correctable causes and with antiarrhythmic medications. If these methods fail to produce a response, double sequential external defibrillation may be beneficial.

PROCEDURE:

1. Prior to attempting Double Sequential Defibrillation, at least one shock should be given using a different vector. Change pad placement from anterior-apex to anterior-posterior.
2. Ensure quality CPR and minimally interrupted chest compressions during pad application and procedure.
3. Apply a new set of external defibrillation pads adjacent to, but not touching the pad set currently in use.
4. Assure that controls for the second manual defibrillator are accessible to the team leader
5. Verify that both cardiac manual defibrillators are attached to the patient, that all pads are well adhered, and simultaneously charge both manual defibrillators.
6. When both monitors are charged to maximum energy settings and all persons are clear, push both shock buttons as synchronously as possible.
7. May repeat procedure every 2 minutes as indicated if refractory ventricular fibrillation/tachycardia persists

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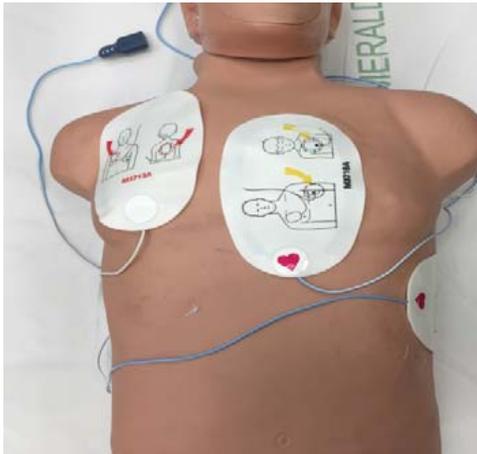


Photo Courtesy of Emergency Medicine Reviews and Perspectives

PEARLS

- Continue compressions when defibrillators are charging.
- During interruptions compressor's hands should hover over chest.
- Pre-charge manual defibrillators prior to rhythm check to ensure rapid defibrillation if a shockable rhythm is present. If no shock is indicated, disarm the device (dump the charge)
- Depending your local hospital resources, some refractory ventricular fibrillation patients may benefit from emergent cardiac catheterization. For this small patient population, transportation (ideally with a mechanical CPR device) may be indicated. Transporting these patients directly to the cath lab should be done in collaboration with on-line **Medical Direction** and interventional cardiology.



6.2 ECG Acquisition, Transmission and Interpretation

ECG interpretation in the prehospital environment can be performed only by Paramedics. 12-lead ECG acquisition and transmission may be performed by EMTs, AEMTs or Paramedics. **EMRs, EMTs and AEMTs may not apply 3/4 lead ECG to patient except under direct observation/request of an on-scene Paramedic.**

EMT/ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

Obtain 12-lead ECG with baseline vitals within 10 minutes if available and practical and transmit per local guidelines.

INDICATIONS

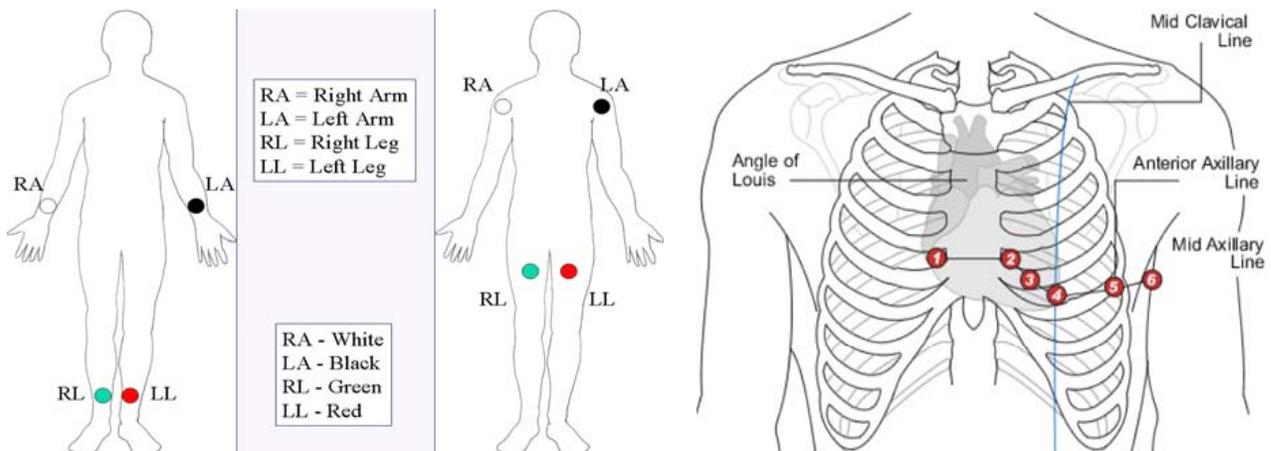
- Congestive Heart Failure/Pulmonary Edema
- Dysrhythmias, palpitations
- Suspected Acute Coronary Syndrome (chest, jaw, arm, or epigastric discomfort, diaphoresis, weakness)
- Syncope
- Shortness of breath

PROCEDURE

1. Prepare ECG Monitor and connect cable with electrodes.
2. Properly position the patient (supine or semi-reclined).
3. Enter patient information (e.g. age, gender) into monitor.
4. Prep chest as necessary, (e.g. hair removal, skin prep pads).
5. Apply chest and extremity leads using recommended landmarks:
 - RA – Right arm or shoulder.
 - LA – Left arm or shoulder.
 - RL – Right leg or hip.
 - LL – Left leg or hip.
 - V1 – 4TH intercostal space at the right sternal border.
 - V2 – 4TH intercostal space at the left sternal border.
 - V3 – Directly between V2 and V4.
 - V4 – 5TH intercostal space midclavicular line.
 - V5 – Level with V4 at left anterior axillary line.
 - V6 – Level with V5 at left midaxillary line.
6. Instruct patient to remain still.
7. Obtain the 12-lead ECG, read computer interpretation, and transmit if possible.
8. **EMT/AEMT:** If the computer interpretation reads, *****Acute MI***** or *****Acute MI Suspected*****, or other similar message, transport patient to the most appropriate facility in accordance with local STEMI guidelines/agreements and notify receiving facility of a **“STEMI ALERT.”**
Paramedic: If Paramedic interprets the ECG to be an acute ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI), transport patient to the most appropriate facility in accordance with local STEMI guidelines/agreements and notify receiving facility of a **“STEMI ALERT.”**
9. For patients with continued symptoms consistent with acute coronary syndrome, perform repeat ECGs during transport to evaluate for evolving STEMI.
10. Copies of 12-lead ECG labeled with the patient’s name and date of birth should be left with the receiving hospital and incorporated into the patient’s SIREN record.

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Medical Procedure 6.2



ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS– ADULT & PEDIATRIC

DEFINITION

Intraosseous insertion establishes access in a critically ill patient where venous access cannot be rapidly obtained. The bone marrow space serves as a “noncollapsible vein” and provides access to the general circulation for the administration of fluids and resuscitation drugs. This protocol applies to all appropriate IO insertion sites.

INDICATION

- Drug or fluid resuscitation of a patient in profound shock or other critical illness and in need of immediate life-saving intervention and unable to rapidly obtain peripheral IV access.
- May be used as a primary vascular device in cardiac arrest.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Placement in or distal to a fractured bone.
- Placement at an infected site.
- Placement at site where IO was already attempted.

COMPLICATIONS

- Infusion rate may not be adequate for resuscitation of ongoing hemorrhage or severe shock, extravasation of fluid, fat embolism, and osteomyelitis (rare).

EQUIPMENT

- 15 – 19 gauge bone marrow needle or FDA-approved commercial intraosseous infusion device.
- Gloves and povidone-iodine, chlorhexidine solution or alcohol wipes.
- Primed IV tubing, IV stopcock.
- 10 mL syringe with 0.9% NaCl.
- Pressure pump/bag or 60 mL syringe for volume infusion or slow push.
- Paramedic only: 1 vial of 2% lidocaine (preservative free).
- 5 mL syringe.

A/P

Procedure Continues



IO access is not indicated simply for inability to start an IV, but rather is reserved for patients with profound shock or other critical illness.

6.3

Intraosseous Access

Procedure Continued

PROCEDURE

When using an FDA-approved commercial IO device, follow manufacturer's instructions.

1. Place the patient in a supine position.
2. Identify the bony landmarks as appropriate for device.
3. Choose correct needle size: 45 mm proximal humerus, 25 mm anterior tibial, 15 mm anterior tibial skin and bone (thin).
4. Prep the site. Scrub site with alcohol wipe or other cleaning solution and allow to dry.
5. Insert IO needle. Follow manufacturer's instructions for preferred sites.
6. Needle is appropriately placed if the following are present:
 - If appropriate, aspiration with syringe yields blood with marrow particulate matter.
 - Infusion of saline does not result in infiltration at the site.
 - Needle stands without support.
7. Attach IV tubing, with or without stopcock.
8. **Paramedic only:** Prior to IO syringe bolus (flush) or continuous infusion in alert patients:
 - Ensure that the patient has no allergies or sensitivity to lidocaine.
 - SLOWLY administer lidocaine 2% (preservative free) through the IO device catheter.
 - Allow 2 – 5 minutes for anesthetic effects, if possible:
 - **Adult:** 20 – 50 mg (1 – 2.5 mL) 2% lidocaine.
 - **Pediatric:** 0.5 mg/kg 2% lidocaine (maximum 50 mg).
9. Flush with 10 mL of 0.9% NaCl rapid bolus prior to use:
 - Recommend use of a stop cock inline with syringe for bolus infusions.
 - Use a pressure bag for continuous 0.9% NaCl infusions.
 - Infuse emergent pressors using an IV pump.
10. Stabilize needle:
 - Consider utilizing a commercially available stabilization device as recommended by the manufacturer **OR**
 - Stabilize needle on both sides with sterile gauze and secure with tape (avoid tension on needle).
11. Apply ID bracelet to indicate patient has had an IO placed or attempted.

A/P

Medical Procedure 6.3



May only attempt one IO needle per site. Notify ED of missed sites.

Pearls

Any fluid or medication that can be administered through an IV may be administered through an appropriately-placed IO device.

Quantitative Waveform Capnography 6.4

ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

INDICATIONS

- Confirmation of endotracheal tube placement (required). See [Nasotracheal Intubation Protocol 5.9](#) / [Orotracheal Intubation Protocol 5.10](#).
- Confirmation of supraglottic airway placement.
- Routine use of ETCO₂ for monitoring ventilation status is appropriate including:
 - BVM ventilation.
 - CPAP.
 - Respiratory distress.
 - Altered mental status.
 - All invasive airway procedures or blind airway devices.
- Monitoring of CPR quality and for signs of return of spontaneous circulation in cardiac arrest patients.

PROCEDURE

1. Attach capnography sensor to endotracheal tube, supraglottic airway, BVM or oxygen delivery device.
2. Observe ETCO₂ level and waveform morphology changes. This should be documented for patients undergoing airway management, cardiac arrest, altered mental status and respiratory distress. Printed waveform preferred for evaluating waveform morphology.
3. ETCO₂ should remain in place with the airway and be monitored until transfer of care in hospital.
4. Any loss of ETCO₂ detection or waveform may indicate an airway problem and should be immediately addressed.

NOTES

- There are three determinants of quantitative waveform capnography:
 1. Alveolar ventilation.
 2. Pulmonary/vascular perfusion.
 3. Metabolism.
- Sudden loss of quantitative waveform capnography:
 - Tube dislodged.
 - Circuit disconnected/obstructed.
 - Apnea.
- High levels of CO₂ (> 45 mmHg):
 - Hypoventilation/CO₂ retention.
- Low CO₂ (< 25 mmHg):
 - Hyperventilation.
 - Low perfusion: shock, pulmonary embolus, sepsis.
- Cardiac Arrest (Paramedic only): In low-pulmonary blood flow states, such as cardiac arrest, the primary determinant of quantitative waveform capnography is blood flow. Capnography levels are a good indicator of CPR quality.
 - If capnography levels are dropping, the CPR quality may be poor, consider changing chest compressors.
 - A sudden rise in ETCO₂ level to 40 mmHg or greater indicates substantial improvement in blood flow and likely return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC).
 - An ETCO₂ level of 10 mmHg or less measured 20 minutes after the initiation of advanced cardiac life support accurately predicts death in patients with cardiac arrest. See [Resuscitation Initiation and Termination Policy 8.17](#).

EMT/ ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS**INDICATIONS**

Any patient who may harm himself, herself, or others may be restrained to prevent injury to the patient or crew. Restraining must be performed in a humane manner and used only as a last resort.

PROCEDURE

1. Scene and EMS safety, first.
2. Request law enforcement assistance, as necessary.
3. When appropriate, attempt less restrictive means of managing the patient, including verbal de-escalation.
4. Ensure that there are sufficient personnel available to physically restrain the patient safely.
5. Restrain the patient in a lateral or supine position. No devices such as backboards, splints, or other devices may be placed on top of the patient. Never hog-tie a patient. In order to gain control, the patient may need to be in a prone position, but must be moved to supine or lateral position as soon as possible.
6. The patient must be under constant observation by the EMS crew at all times. This includes direct visualization of the patient as well as cardiac, pulse oximetry, and quantitative waveform capnography monitoring, if available.
7. The extremities that are restrained must have a circulation check at least every 15 minutes. The first of these checks should occur as soon after placement of the restraints as possible.
8. Documentation in the ePCR should include the reason for the use of restraints, the type of restraints used, the time restraints were placed, circulation checks, and any injuries resulting from restraints.
9. If a patient is restrained by law enforcement personnel with handcuffs or other devices EMS personnel cannot remove, a law enforcement officer should accompany the patient to the hospital in the transporting ambulance. If this is not feasible, the officer **MUST** follow directly behind the transporting ambulance to the receiving hospital.
10. Once applied, restraint should not be removed in the field unless medically necessary to provide care.

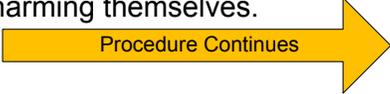
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PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS – ADULT ONLY (NOT PEDIATRIC)

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PROCEDURE

1. If physical restraints are used and patient continues to be violent/agitated, pharmacological sedation may be administered as soon as possible to assist in control of patient and to help prevent patient from harming themselves.

Procedure Continues 

PEARLS:

- Causes of combativeness may be due to comorbid medical conditions or due to hypoxia, hypoglycemia, drug and/or alcohol intoxication, drug overdose, brain trauma.
- Struggling against restraints may lead to hyperkalemia, rhabdomyolysis, and/or cardiac arrest.
- Verbal de-escalation is the safest method and should be delivered in an honest, straightforward, friendly tone avoiding direct eye contact and encroachment of personal space.

Procedure Continues

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS – ADULT ONLY (NOT PEDIATRIC)

Contact **Medical Direction** to consider:

- Midazolam 5 mg IM/intranasal, may repeat once in 10 minutes (IM is preferred route of administration if patient is combative) **OR** 2.5 mg IV, may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR**
- Lorazepam 1 mg IV, may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR** 2 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes **OR**
- Diazepam 2.5 mg IV, may repeat once in 5 minutes **AND/OR**
- Haloperidol 5 mg IM, may repeat once in 5 minutes (max total dose 10 mg).
 - May combine and administer Benzodiazepine and Haloperidol in one syringe **OR**
- Ketamine 4 mg/kg **IM injection only**. (Use 100 mg/mL concentration, maximum dose 500 mg.) Repeat 100 mg IM dose in 5 – 10 minutes for continued agitation.

NOTE: Contact **Medical Direction** if additional dosing is needed.

- If cardiac arrest occurs, consider fluid bolus and sodium bicarbonate early, see [Cardiac Arrest Protocol – Adult 3.2A](#).

For acute dystonic reaction to haloperidol:

- Diphenhydramine 25 – 50 mg IV **OR** 50 mg IM.



Haloperidol can lower the seizure threshold and should be used with caution. Use lower doses of haloperidol in the elderly or frail.



On-line medical direction is required for sedation of an adult with combative behavior from a behavioral emergency. Sedation for combative adults for overdose (intoxication), poisoning, or head trauma is by off-line order.

Taser (Conducted Electrical Weapon)

6.6 Probe Removal and Assessment

State and local law enforcement may use a conducted electrical weapon (CEW), also called a Taser. This device is a tool that can be deployed in either a drive stun (sensory nervous system) or dart (sensory & motor nervous systems that causes neuro-muscular incapacitation) mode. In the dart mode, two probes with attached wires are discharged from the CEW. The probes are #8 straightened fish hooks that penetrate the suspect's skin a maximum of ¼ inch. Each trigger pull discharges an electric charge for a 5-second cycle. The electric charge is high voltage (generally 12,000 volts) and low amperes (generally 0.0036 amp). Current medical literature does not support routine medical evaluation for an individual after a CEW application. **In most circumstances probes can be removed by law enforcement without further EMS or other medical intervention.**

EMT/ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

EMS should be activated and transport the patient following CEW (conducted electrical weapon) application (i.e., Taser™) in the following circumstances:

- The probe is embedded in the eye, genitals, or bone.
- Seizure is witnessed after CEW application.
- There is excessive bleeding from probe site after probe removal.
- Cardiac arrest, complaints of chest pain, palpitations.
- Respiratory distress.
- Altered mental status.
- Pregnancy.
- Developmental or physical disability and unable to assess the above.

INDICATIONS FOR REMOVAL

- Patient with uncomplicated conducted electrical weapon probes embedded subcutaneously in non-vulnerable areas of skin.

CONTRAINDICATIONS TO REMOVAL

- Patients with probe penetration in vulnerable areas of the body as mentioned below should be transported for further evaluation and probe removal.
- Genitalia, female breast, or skin above level of clavicles.
- Suspicion that probe might be embedded in bone, blood vessel, or other sensitive structure.
- Any condition listed above that requires transport to the emergency department.

PROCEDURE

1. Ensure wires are disconnected from weapon.
2. Stabilize skin around probe using non-dominant hand.
3. Grasp probe by metal body using dominant hand.
4. Remove probe by pulling straight out in a single quick motion.
5. Insure that the probes and barbs are intact.
6. Removed probes should be handled and disposed of like contaminated sharps in a designated sharps container, unless requested as evidence by police.
7. Cleanse wound and apply dressing.
8. If last tetanus immunization was greater than 5 years, advise the patient that they may need one.
9. Obtain a refusal of care for patients refusing transport.

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Tourniquet & Hemostatic Agent – 6.7

Adult & Pediatric

EMT STANDING ORDERS

CLINICAL INDICATIONS

- Life threatening hemorrhage that cannot be controlled by other means (direct pressure).
- Serious or life threatening hemorrhage and operational considerations prevent the use of standard hemorrhage control techniques.

PROCEDURE

- Routine Patient Care.
- Attempt to control hemorrhage with direct pressure.
- If direct pressure ineffective or impractical and hemorrhage not controlled, apply tourniquet or hemostatic agent as indicated.
- Refer to [Shock Protocol – Adult 2.21A](#) or [Shock Protocol – Pediatric 2.21P](#).
- Minimize scene time.
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.
- See [Trauma Triage and Transport Decision Protocol 8.18](#).
- Apply tourniquet for wound amenable to tourniquet placement (e.g., extremity injury). Use a commercially-produced, windlass, pneumatic, or ratcheting device, which has been demonstrated to occlude arterial flow and avoid narrow, elastic, or bungee-type devices. Utilize improvised tourniquets only if no commercial device is available. Place tourniquet 2 - 3" proximal to wound.
 - Tighten per manufacturer instructions until hemorrhage stops and distal pulses in affected extremity disappear.
 - Secure tourniquet per manufacturer instructions.
 - Note time of tourniquet application and communicate this to receiving providers.
 - Dress wounds per standard wound care protocol.
 - Do not release a properly-applied tourniquet until the patient reaches definitive care.
 - If delayed or prolonged transport and tourniquet application time \geq 5 hours contact **Medical Direction**.
 - Consider application of a second tourniquet just proximal to the first for failure to control bleeding.
- Apply a topical hemostatic bandage, in combination with direct pressure, for wounds in anatomical areas where tourniquets cannot be applied and sustained direct pressure alone is ineffective or impractical. (Junctional/torso injury or proximal extremity location where tourniquet application is not practical.)
 - Only apply topical hemostatic agents in a gauze format that supports wound packing.
 - Only utilize topical hemostatic bandage which have been determined to be effective and safe in a standardized laboratory injury model.

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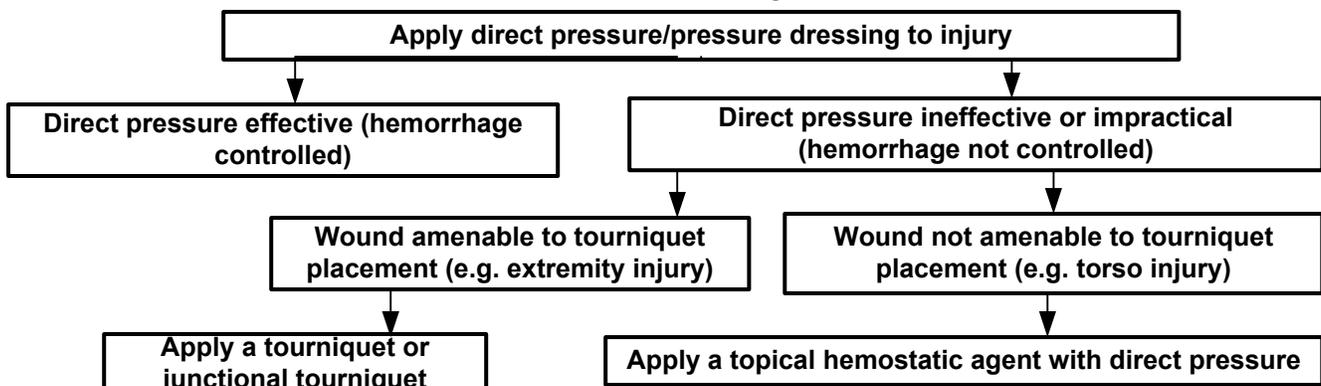
ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

A/P

- Establish IV/IO access.
- Administer 500 mL bolus 0.9% NaCl IV/IO. (**Pediatrics:** 20 mL/kg bolus 0.9% NaCl IV/IO. May repeat to a maximum of 60 mL/kg.)



Prehospital External Hemorrhage Control Protocol



E. M. Bulger et al. PREHOSPITAL GUIDELINE FOR EXTERNAL HEMORRHAGE CONTROL PREHOSPITAL EMERGENCY CARE APRIL/JUNE 2014 VOLUME 18 / NUMBER 2.

Vermont EMS has taken extreme caution to ensure all information is accurate and in accordance with professional standards in effect at the time of publication. These protocols, policies, or procedures MAY NOT BE altered or modified.

6.8 Vascular Access Via Pre-Existing Central Catheters

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS – ADULT ONLY

PROVIDER LEVEL:

- Paramedic

INDICATIONS

- In the presence of a life-threatening condition, a patient with a pre-existing central catheter with clear indications for immediate use of medication or fluid bolus. (Not for prophylactic IV access.)

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Suspected infection at skin site.

P

PROCEDURE

Determine the type of catheter present: PICC, Broviac, Hickman, Groshong, Mediport, etc.

Procedure For Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (Cook, Neo-PICC, Etc.) And Tunneled Catheter (Broviac, Hickman, Groshong, Etc.)

1. Prepare equipment:
 - 10 mL syringe (empty),
 - 10 mL syringe 0.9% NaCl, and
 - Sterile gloves (if available).
2. If more than one lumen is available (PICCs and Boviacs can have one, two, or three lumens), select the largest lumen available.
3. Vigorously prep the cap of the lumen with chlorhexidine.
4. Unclamp the catheter lumen and using a 10 mL syringe, (after unclamping the lumen) aspirate 3 – 5 mL of blood with the syringe and discard. If unable to aspirate blood, re-clamp the lumen and attempt to use another lumen (if present). If clots are present, contact **Medical Direction** before proceeding.
5. Flush the lumen with 3 – 5 mL 0.9% NaCl using a the 10 mL syringe. If catheter does not flush easily (note that a PICC line will generally flush more slowly and with greater resistance than a typical intravenous catheter), re-clamp the selected lumen and attempt to use another lumen (if present).
6. Attach IV administration set and observe for free flow of IV fluid.
7. Allow titrate fluid to run at rate of 10 mL/hour to prevent the central line from clotting.



The maximum flow rates for a PICC line are 125 mL/hour for <2.0 Fr sized catheter and 250 mL/hour for >2.0 Fr sized catheters.

Note: Avoid taking a blood pressure reading in the same arm as the PICC.

Vascular Access Via Pre-Existing Central Catheter 6.8

Procedure Continued

P



Procedure For Implanted Catheter (Port-a-Cath, P.A.S. Port, Medi-port)

1. Prepare all necessary equipment:
 - Non-coring, right angle (Huber/Haberman) needle specific for implanted vascular access ports
 - 10 mL syringe (empty),
 - Two 10 mL syringes 0.9% NaCl, and
 - Sterile gloves (if available).
2. Identify the access site; usually located in the chest.
3. Clean the access site with chlorhexidine solution.
4. Prime the non-coring needle tubing with saline.
5. Palpate the port to determine the size and center of the device. If not utilizing sterile gloves, re-clean the skin.
6. Secure the access point port firmly between two fingers and firmly insert the non-coring needle into the port, entering at a direct 90° angle. Attach a 10 mL syringe to haberman/huber needle.
7. Aspirate 3 – 5 mL of blood with the syringe. If unable to aspirate blood, re-clamp the catheter and do not attempt further use. If clots are present, contact **Medical Direction** before proceeding.
8. Flush the catheter with 3 – 5 mL 0.9% NaCl using a 10 mL syringe. If catheter does not flush easily, do not attempt further use.
9. Attach IV administration set and observe for free flow of IV fluid.
10. If shock is not present, allow fluid to run at rate of KVO to prevent the central line from clotting.



- Only non-coring, right angle needles specific for implanted ports are to be used for vascular access devices that are implanted in the patient. These are generally not carried by EMS units but may be provided by the patient.
- Priming the tubing of the non-coring needle is essential to prevent air embolism.
- In case of cardiac arrest, implanted ports may be accessed with a standard needle, if a non-coring needle is unavailable.

Medical Procedure 6.8

7.0

Interfacility Transfers

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this section is to reconcile the unique aspects of interfacility transfer with current VT EMS Rules, licensure, and the rest of the VT Statewide EMS protocols. It is intended to provide flexibility, where possible, for individual agencies, institutions, and communities to meet their unique needs.

INTERFACILITY TRANSFER

An interfacility transfer is defined as any EMS ambulance transport from one healthcare facility to another. Examples include hospital-to-hospital, hospital-to-rehabilitation, and hospital-to-long-term care. (Guide for Interfacility Patient Transfer, NHTSA, April 2006.) In general, transports from a healthcare facility to a hospital emergency department (ED) by EMS should not be regarded as interfacility transfers.

TRANSFERRING INSTITUTION

Responsibility for patient transfer lies with the transferring physician/provider, and must take into account the risks versus the benefits to the patient. Providing appropriate equipment, medications, and qualified staffing during transport is paramount to patient safety. These parameters should be based on the requirements of the patient at the time of transfer, and in reasonable anticipation of foreseeable complications, deterioration, and medical needs that might arise during transport.

Initiation of a transfer should be a carefully coordinated effort by the transferring and receiving physicians, the transferring and receiving facilities, and the transferring unit and personnel. Time or advanced notification may be needed for the transferring EMS unit to reconfigure in order to meet the needs outlined here.

STAFFING LEVELS – PARAMEDIC, ADVANCED PARAMEDIC AND CCP GUIDANCE

Under the National Scope of Practice Model as adopted by VT, the Paramedic scope/curriculum does not specifically address the care of the critically ill patient during an extended transport between facilities. VT EMS therefore requires specific additional training for Paramedics to provide extended transport of critically ill or injured patients if their clinical needs exceed those otherwise covered by the VT Statewide EMS protocols.

Vermont EMS has had an endorsement for EMT-P known as the Vermont Critical Care Paramedic (CCP) that allowed, with additional training and credentialing, for an expanded scope of practice including the use of infusion pumps and the administration of certain otherwise restricted medications and nutritional preparations to address the majority of interfacility transfer situations. Now that Vermont has revised the Paramedic scope of practice in accordance with the National Scope of Practice Model, all (transitioned) Paramedics are allowed to use infusion pumps and administer IV nitroglycerine and electrolytes. With additional training and credentialing, Paramedics may also maintain an already established heparin infusion. In general, paramedics may administer standard medications from the approved EMS formulary by infusion pump when appropriate. Paramedics may maintain an existing antibiotic infusion. This expansion of the National Scope of Practice will allow 'regular' Paramedics to provide IFT for appropriately selected patients. However, there are still several important procedures and medications vital to the

Protocol Continues 



Protocol Continues

safe interfacility transfer of critically ill or injured patients that are beyond the scope of practice for a Paramedic for which advanced critical care knowledge and skills will be required.

EMS providers that are still credentialed as CCPs may provide all the medications that a new transitioned Paramedic can provide, plus nutritional preparations and non-narcotic analgesics. The current endorsement of CCP provides few additional skills above the new Paramedic level and will eventually be phased out and replaced by the new Vermont Critical Care Paramedic (CCP) endorsement. EMS providers with the old CCP credentials will now be referred to as Advanced Paramedics.

The new Vermont CCP endorsement provides an expanded scope of practice for numerous procedures and medications vital to the safe transport of the critically ill or injured patient. The CCP endorsement is outlined in the Appendix 4. Procedures or medications in Appendix 4 labeled as “W” require an additional waiver from VT EMS.

STAFFING LEVELS – ALL NON-PARAMEDIC CONFIGURATIONS

Some patients will have a level of acuity and/or complexity that requires a more advanced configuration/level of interfacility transport—either by air or ground. The operation of such transfer resource programs requires greater training, medical oversight, and service support, and is intended for the more limited number of acute and complex interfacility transfers that occur. If that level of resource is not readily available, it is an acceptable practice to supplement the EMS crew with hospital staff that is qualified to provide the level of care the patient requires. EMS providers must therefore refuse to transport patients that have a level of acuity and/or medication regimen that they are not comfortable with, and work with the sending facility to acquire optimal staffing (such as sending nursing staff or other provider).

The transferring physician/provider is responsible for determining the level of EMS provider and resources that are appropriate to meet the patient’s current and anticipated condition and needs. In the interfacility transfer environment, all patient care delivered must be within the scope of the provider’s protocols and licensure. (EMS providers may need to educate sending/receiving facility staff about their respective scopes of practice and any limitations contained therein.)

Minimum Universal BLS staffing configurations: (EMS rule 2.1.2)

1 EMT provider and 1 EMR (minimum) driver.

Scope examples:

- No IV infusions. No cardiac ECG monitoring.
- Oxygen for stable patient permitted.
- Previously inserted Foley catheter, suprapubic tube, established feeding tube (NG, PEG, J-tube not connected to infusion or suction).
- Saline lock permitted.

Minimum AEMT staffing configuration:

1 AEMT provider and 1 EMT or EMR driver.

Scope examples:

- No cardiac ECG monitoring.
- No ongoing or anticipated medications to be administered unless otherwise contained in AEMT scope.
- Peripheral intravenous administration of any crystalloid infusion.
- Patient-controlled analgesic (PCA) pump.

Protocol Continues



Protocol Continues

MEDICAL DIRECTION RESPONSIBILITIES

According to EMTALA, patient care during transport until arrival at the receiving facility is the responsibility of the transferring physician unless other arrangements are made.

Sometimes, as in certain Air Medical Transport services or ground critical care units, the transport unit is functioning as an extension of a tertiary care center. It operates under that facility's medical direction, and on-line medical direction.

In the prehospital environment, the EMS system operates under statewide protocols. In the interfacility transfer environment, written transfer orders that are within the scope of the provider's protocols and licensure are also required to be authored by the transferring physician. The combination of protocols and transfer orders provide off-line medical direction.

Transfer orders must be specific, appropriate to the patient being transferred, and reasonably anticipate potential complications enroute. Transfer orders may reference the use of VT EMS protocols where they are applicable. If patients develop new signs and/or symptoms during transport, beyond their initial transfer diagnosis, providers may treat the new signs and/or symptoms according to VT EMS protocols. In rare circumstances where transfer orders and VT EMS protocols are in conflict, transfer orders take precedence assuming they are within the scope of the provider's level of licensure.

The transferring physician should be immediately available to review transport orders and provide medical direction communication via radio, cell phone, or telephone during the transport. If the physician is unavailable, they must make other arrangements for review of the transfer orders with the transport crew.

Interfacility Transport of Patients With IV Heparin by Paramedics 7.1

PURPOSE

The purpose of this section is to provide a mechanism for paramedics to be permitted to monitor pre-existing infusions of heparin during interfacility transfers.

POLICY

- a. Only those paramedics who have successfully completed a training program approved by Vermont EMS on heparin infusions will be allowed to administer and monitor heparin infusions during interfacility transports.
- b. Transporting ambulance service must be licensed at the paramedic level.
- c. Patients that are candidates for paramedic transport will have pre-existing intravenous heparin drips. Prehospital personnel will not initiate heparin drips or bolus. Patient must not have any contraindications to use of heparin (below).

INDICATIONS

Acute myocardial infarction, unstable angina, DVT (deep vein thrombosis), DIC (disseminated intravascular coagulation), pulmonary embolism, atrial fibrillation, arterial embolism.

PROCEDURE

- a. The patient must have at least one functioning IV, preferably two (2). Patient must be placed on continuous cardiac monitoring.
- b. Medication pump and tubing supplied by the transporting ambulance agency. Pump may also be supplied by the hospital, provided the paramedic has been previously trained in the use of the hospital pump.
- c. The paramedic shall receive a report from the nurse/physician caring for the patient and continue the existing medication drip rate.
- d. If medication administration is interrupted by infiltration or disconnection, the paramedic may restart or reconnect the IV line.
- e. All medication drips will be in the form of an IV piggyback monitored by a mechanical pump familiar to the paramedic who has received training and is familiar with its use.
- f. In cases of pump malfunction that cannot be corrected, the medication drip will be discontinued and the receiving hospital notified.
- g. Paramedics are allowed to transport patients on heparin drips within the following parameters:
 - i. Infusion fluid will be D5W or NS. Medication concentration will be 100 units/mL of IV fluid (25,000 units/250mL or 50,000 units/500 mL). The heparin drip will be prepared and supplied by the sending facility. Ensure sufficient volume is taken to complete the transfer.
 - ii. Drip rates will remain constant during transport. No regulation of the rate will be performed except to turn off the infusion completely.
 - iii. Drip rates will not exceed 18 units/kg/hr (based on adjusted body weight); max rate may be exceeded ONLY per **Medical Direction** orders.
 - iv. Patient will be on continuous cardiac monitor. Monitor the patient for dysrhythmias, bleeding (petechial or bruising, bleeding from the gums, epistaxis, GI bleeding), hypotension (which can be a sign of internal bleeding), change in neurological exam concerning for intracranial hemorrhage (altered mental status, headache, numbness, weakness, seizure), or anaphylaxis.

Protocol Continues

7.1 Interfacility Transport of Patients With IV Heparin by Paramedics



Protocol Continued

PROCEDURE (CONTINUED)

- v. Vital signs and neuro exam will be assessed every 10 minutes.
- vi. For bleeding, signs of intracranial hemorrhage (altered mental status, abnormal neuro exam), hypotension (shock) or anaphylaxis, contact **Medical Direction** to consider stopping the heparin infusion. Treat hypotension or bleeding as per standard protocols.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- a. **Mechanism of Action:** Heparin is an anticoagulant. Heparin inhibits the mechanisms that induce the clotting of blood and the formation of stable fibrin clots at various sites in the normal coagulation system. When heparin is combined with antithrombin III (heparin cofactor), thrombosis is blocked through inactivation of activated Factor X and inhibition of prothrombin's conversion to thrombin. This also prevents fibrin formation from fibrinogen during active thrombosis. Heparin has an almost immediate onset of action after IV administration, with an average plasma half-life of 1 to 2 hours. Anticoagulation is primarily due to neutralization of thrombin. In addition, clotting secondary to stasis and the extension of existing thrombi are also prevented. Heparin may interact with other drugs. In general, concurrent use of oral anticoagulants, salicylates, IIb/IIIa antagonists, or thrombolytics can increase the risk of bleeding or severe hemorrhage (internal or external).
- b. **Complications:** Bleeding complications occur in approximately 1.5 to 2% of patients on heparin including the potential for severe hemorrhage or intracranial bleeding. Patients may also have anaphylaxis. Patients must be monitored for hypotension which may be secondary to acute blood loss or anaphylaxis. If complications of bleeding, altered mental status, hypotension or anaphylaxis occur, contact **Medical Direction** and consider stopping the heparin infusion. Treat the patient with standard existing EMS protocols (control external bleeding, treat for shock). In severe cases a heparin reversal agent, protamine sulfate, may be given at the hospital, BUT IS NOT GIVEN IN THE PREHOSPITAL SETTING.
- c. **Contraindications:** Severe thrombocytopenia, active bleeding (except DIC), suspected intracranial bleeding.

Rapid Sequence Intubation (RSI) 7.2

PARAMEDIC - PREREQUISITES REQUIRED

This procedure is only to be used by paramedics who are trained and credentialed to perform RSI with oversight by local Medical Direction and agency participation in an RSI educational and CQI program approved by Vermont EMS. Either 2 RSI paramedics or 1 RSI paramedic and 1 RSI assistant must be present.

INDICATION

- Immediate, severe airway compromise in the adult patient where respiratory arrest is imminent and other methods of airway management are ineffective.

PROCEDURE: THE SEVEN P'S

PREPARATION "SOAPME": T minus 5 minutes.

- Suction set up.
- Oxygen: 100% non-rebreather mask, with bag-valve mask ready. Apply nasal cannula at 6 – 15 LPM in addition to non-rebreather or bag-valve mask preoxygenation. Do not remove nasal cannula during intubation attempt(s).
- Assessment: Evaluate airway difficulty based on patient anatomy (e.g., short neck, obesity, decreased thyromental distance and Class III or IV oropharyngeal views on observation). Have fallback plan and equipment ready.
- Pharmacology: IV/Medications drawn.
- Monitor: Cardiac / O₂ saturation/ ETCO₂.
- Equipment : ETT (check cuff) / Stylet / BVM / Laryngoscope / Blades / Suction / Bougie / Back-up devices.

PREOXYGENATION: T minus 5 minutes.

- When possible, use a non-rebreather mask for at least 3 minutes to effect nitrogen washout and establish an adequate oxygen reserve. In emergent cases, administer 8 vital capacity bag-valve-mask breaths with 100% oxygen.
- Apply nasal cannula with oxygen regulator turned up to its fullest capacity (nasal cannula should remain in place until endotracheal tube is secured).

PREMEDICATION: T minus 3-5 minutes.

- Consider lidocaine 1.5 mg/kg IV/IO for patients with suspected increased intracranial pressure (ICP) (e.g., traumatic brain injury, seizures, suspected intracranial hemorrhage).
- Consider atropine 0.02 mg/kg IV/IO for **pediatric** patients with increased risk of bradycardia. No minimum dose.

{SEDATE THEN} PARALYZE: T minus 45 seconds.

- Etomidate 0.3 mg/kg IV/IO, maximum 40 mg **OR**
- Ketamine 2 mg/kg IV/IO **OR**
- Midazolam 0.2 mg/kg IV/IO (0.1 mg/kg IV/IO for patients in shock).
- Succinylcholine 1.5 mg/kg IV/IO immediately after sedation.
- For patients with contraindications to succinylcholine:
 - Rocuronium 1 mg/kg IV/IO **OR**
 - Vecuronium 0.1 mg/kg IV/IO.

PASS THE TUBE: T minus 0 seconds.

- Observe for fasciculations approximately 90 seconds after succinylcholine to indicate imminent paralysis.
- After paralysis is achieved, follow the procedure outlined in [Orotracheal Intubation Procedure 5.10](#) to place the ETT.

Protocol Continues

P



SUCCINYLCHOLINE CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- Extensive recent burns or crush injuries > 24 hours old.
- Known or suspected hyperkalemia.
- History of malignant hyperthermia.



7.2 Rapid Sequence Intubation (RSI)

Protocol Continued

PARAMEDIC - PREREQUISITES REQUIRED - Continued

P



PROOF OF PLACEMENT

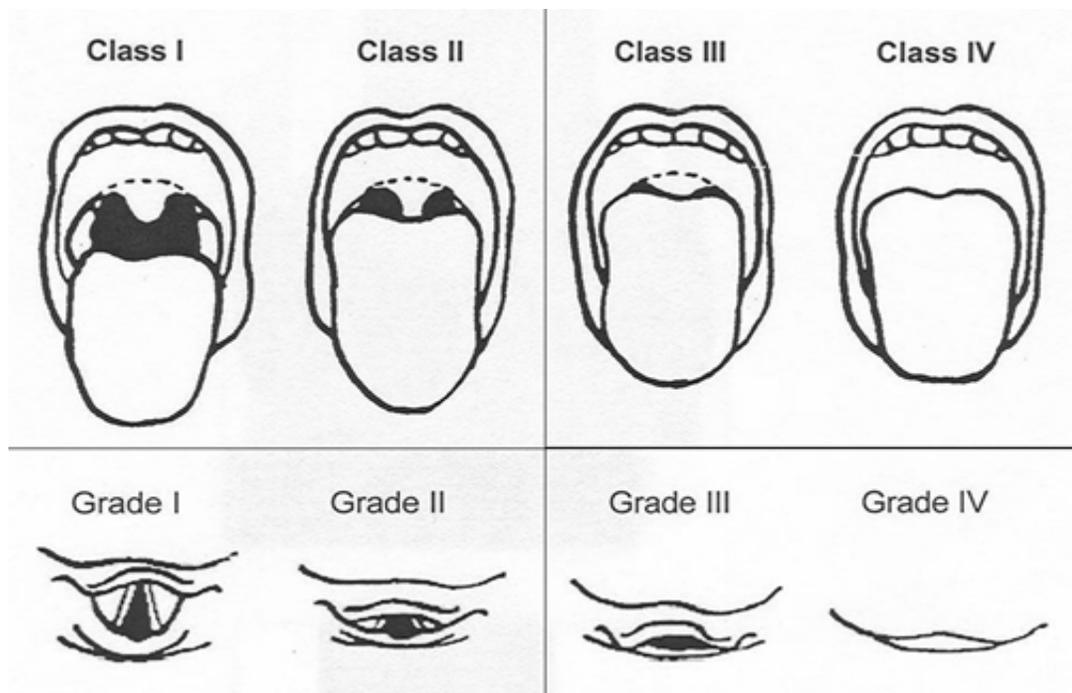
- Assess for proper placement by following the procedure outlined in [Orotracheal Intubation Procedure 5.10](#).

POST-INTUBATION CARE

- Sedation:
 - Midazolam 2.5 – 5 mg IV/IO, every 5 – 10 minutes as needed for sedation (maximum 20 mg) **OR**
 - Lorazepam 1 – 2 mg IV/IO every 15 minutes as needed for sedation (maximum 10 mg) **AND**
 - Fentanyl 50 – 100 mcg IV/IO. May repeat every 15 minutes as needed for anesthesia (maximum dose 300 mcg).
 - Be sure to maintain adequate sedation if patient is paralyzed.
- Paralysis (via on-line **Medical Direction** only):
 - Vecuronium 0.1 mg/kg IV/IO **OR**
 - Rocuronium 1 mg/kg IV/IO.
- Contact **Medical Direction** for additional dosing.

DOCUMENTATION

- Rapid Sequence Intubation is the process by which the Seven P's are carried out. "Pass The Tube" (Step 5) may require more than one attempt before successful placement. When documenting the procedure in SIREN, choose "Airway, RSI" from the Active Protocol Menu. Within the RSI protocol, document each procedure and medication, including the time performed and the provider. Document each successful or unsuccessful attempt at Step 5 (Pass The Tube) as Endotracheal Intubation. Finish by documenting the remaining steps as part of the entire RSI sequence in SIREN.
- Follow all other required documentation outlined in [Orotracheal Intubation Procedure 5.10](#).



Classifications of Oropharyngeal and Laryngoscopy Views

Abuse and Neglect Assessment and Management -- Child, Elder, Incapacitated Adults, or Other Vulnerable Individuals 8.0

PURPOSE

To provide a process for identification, assessment, management, and reporting of patients who are suspected of having been abused, neglected, and/or exploited. This includes physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, neglectful acts or omissions by self or others, and/or the illegal use of an incapacitated adult's person or property for profit or advantage.

PROCEDURE FOR ASSESSMENT

- Treat and document assessment findings using appropriate medical treatment protocols without causing undue emotional trauma.
- Whenever possible, secure and bag (in paper) clothing or items needed as evidence.
- Interview patient in a calm, respectful, and private manner, while observing for:
 - Mental status.
 - Inappropriate fears or atypical reaction to situation.
 - Avoidance behaviors.
 - Inappropriate interaction with caregiver or parent.
- Do not interrogate, accuse, or otherwise address specifics of abuse or neglect to patient, caregiver or parent.
- Obtain pertinent history relating to presenting injuries or illness.
- Document verbatim any patient statements of instances of rough handling, sexual abuse, alcohol/drug abuse, verbal or emotional abuse, isolation or confinement, misuse of property, threats, and gross neglect such as restriction of fluids, food, medications, or hygienic care.
- Note any potential indicator of an abusive or neglectful circumstance or environment:
 - Unsolicited history provided by the patient.
 - Delay in seeking care for injury or illness.
 - Injury inconsistent with history provided, the patient's developmental abilities, or mobility potential.
 - Conflicting reports regarding injury from the patient, caregiver or parents.
 - Patient unable, or unwilling, to describe mechanism of injury.
 - Injuries in unusual locations, (e.g., genital area).
 - Multiple fractures, bruises or other injuries in various stages of healing.
 - Scald burns with demarcated immersion lines without splash marks.
 - Scald burns involving anterior or posterior half of extremity.
 - Scald burns involving buttocks or genitalia.
 - Burns or injuries consistent with cigarette burns, rope burns, or other identifiable patterned markings.
 - Patient confined to restricted space or position.
 - Pregnancy or presence of sexually transmitted disease in child or vulnerable adult.
 - Problems with living conditions and environment.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Contact law enforcement.
- According to Vermont laws, any and all cases of suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of children or adults must be reported. This applies even in cases when the patient is not transported.
- If a parent/guardian refuses treatment of a minor child or an incapacitated adult whom you feel needs medical attention, contact law enforcement immediately.
- Written documentation is vital because the "story" often changes as investigation proceeds.

Policy Continues 

Abuse and Neglect Assessment and Management -- Child, Elder, 8.0 Incapacitated Adults, or Other Vulnerable Individuals

Policy Continued

DEFINITION OF VULNERABLE ADULT ABUSE, NEGLECT AND EXPLOITATION

Most elders and people with disabilities successfully manage their own lives and are capable of providing for their own care without assistance. They are not automatically defined as “vulnerable adults” simply because of age or disability. The term “vulnerable adult” has a very specific meaning as defined by Vermont law under Title 33 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated ([33 V.S.A. §6902](#)). A person is a vulnerable adult if he/she is:

- is age 18 or older; and
- is a resident of a licensed facility such as a nursing or community care home; or
- is a patient in a psychiatric unit or hospital; or
- has received personal care services for longer than one month; or
- regardless of residence or whether any type of service is received, is impaired due to brain damage, infirmities of aging, or a physical, mental, or developmental disability.

ABUSE

Vermont law provides a broad definition of “abuse” as it applies to vulnerable adults.

Abuse is defined as:

- any treatment of a vulnerable adult which places his or her life, health, or welfare in jeopardy or which results in impairment of health;
- any conduct committed with intent to cause or reckless disregard of unnecessary pain, harm, or suffering; unnecessary or unlawful confinement or restraint of a vulnerable adult;
- intentionally subjecting a vulnerable adult to behavior which results in intimidation, fear, humiliation, degradation, agitation, disorientation, or other forms of serious emotional distress;
- any sexual activity with a vulnerable adult by a caregiver who volunteers for or is paid by a care-giving facility or program. (This definition shall not apply to a consensual relationship between a vulnerable adult and a spouse, nor to a consensual relationship between a vulnerable adult and a caregiver hired, supervised, and directed by the vulnerable adult);
- administration of a drug, substance or preparation to a vulnerable adult for a purpose other than legitimate and lawful medical or therapeutic treatment.

NEGLECT

Neglect may be a single incident or repeated conduct which results in physical or psychological harm. "Neglect" is defined as:

- Failing to provide care or arrange for goods or services necessary to maintain the health or safety of a vulnerable adult, including food, clothing, medicine, shelter, supervision, and medical services;
- Not protecting a vulnerable adult from abuse, neglect, or exploitation by others;

Policy Continues

Abuse and Neglect Assessment and Management-- Child, Elder, Incapacitated Adults, or Other Vulnerable Individuals 8.0

Policy Continued

- Failure to carry out a plan of care for a vulnerable adult when such failure results in physical or psychological harm or a substantial risk of death to the vulnerable adult;
- Not reporting significant changes in the health status of a vulnerable adult to a physician, nurse, or immediate supervisor, when the caregiver is employed by an organization that offers, provides or arranges for personal care.

EXPLOITATION

Vermont statutes define exploitation of a vulnerable adult as:

- Willfully using, withholding, transferring or disposing of funds or property of a vulnerable adult for the wrongful profit or advantage of another;
- Acquiring possession, control or an interest in funds or property of a vulnerable adult through undue harassment or fraud;
- Forcing a vulnerable adult against his or her will to perform services for the profit or advantage of another;
- Any sexual activity with a vulnerable adult when the vulnerable adult does not consent or is incapable of resisting due to age, disability or fear of retribution or hardship.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Vermont law (33.V.S.A. § 4912) defines an abused or neglected child as one whose physical health, psychological growth and development or welfare is harmed or is at substantial risk of harm by the acts or omissions of his or her parent or other person responsible for the child's welfare. An abused or neglected child also means a child who is sexually abused or at substantial risk of sexual abuse by any person.

Harm can occur by:

- Abandonment of the child;
- Emotional maltreatment;
- Neglect;
- Physical injury; or
- Sexual abuse.

Risk of Harm means a significant danger that a child will suffer serious harm other than by accidental means, which would be likely to cause physical injury, neglect, emotional maltreatment, or sexual abuse.

Definitions

Child: an individual under the age of 18.

Person Responsible for a Child's Welfare: includes the child's parent; guardian; foster parent; any other adult residing in the child's home who serves in a parental role; an employee of a public or private residential home, institution or agency; or other person responsible for the child's welfare while in a residential, educational or child care setting, including any staff person.

Emotional Maltreatment: a pattern of malicious behavior, which results in impaired psychological growth and development.

Neglect: failure to supply a child with adequate food, clothing, shelter or health care.

Policy Continues

Abuse and Neglect Assessment and Management -- Child, Elder, 8.0 Incapacitated Adults, or Other Vulnerable Individuals

Policy Continued

Physical Injury: death, permanent or temporary disfigurement, or impairment of any bodily organ or function other than by accidental means.

Sexual Abuse: any act or acts by any person involving sexual molestation or exploitation of a child including but not limited to incest, prostitution, rape, sodomy, or any lewd and lascivious conduct involving a child. Sexual abuse also includes the aiding, abetting, counseling, hiring, or procuring of a child to perform or participate in any photograph, motion picture, exhibition, show, representation, or other presentation which, in whole or in part, depicts a sexual conduct, sexual excitement or sadomasochistic abuse involving a child.

Substantial Child Endangerment: conduct by an adult involving or resulting in sexual abuse, and conduct by a person responsible for a child's welfare involving or resulting in abandonment, child fatality, malicious punishment, or abuse or neglect that causes serious physical injury (33.V.S.A. §4915).

REPORTING PROCEDURES

Child Abuse*

Report suspected child abuse immediately

- Call Vermont's Child Protection Line, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at 800-649-5285.
 - Emergency medical personnel are mandatory reporters in the state of Vermont. This means that once you suspect a child may have been abused or neglected, you are required by law to report your suspicions to Vermont's Department for Children and Families within 24 hours.
 - Informing hospital personnel or involving law enforcement does not fulfill legal reporting responsibilities in accordance with state law.
 - Do not send reports of suspected child abuse by email.

* Responsibility for reporting child abuse and protection from liability for such good faith reporting is established by 33 VSA §4913.

Abuse to Elders and Incapacitated Adults**

- Emergency medical personnel are mandatory reporters in the state of Vermont. This means that once you suspect an adult may have been abused, neglected or exploited, you are required by law to report your suspicions to Vermont's Adult Protective Services program within 48 hours.
- Call the Vermont Adult Protective Services Program at 800-564-1612 or 802-871-3317 between the work hours of 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. To make a report after business hours, on weekends or holidays, please call the Emergency Services Program (ESP) at 800-649-5285.

**Responsibility and protection from liability for reporting an incapacitated adult or an adult who has been subjected to abuse, neglect, or exploitation is established by Vermont Adult Protective Services 33 VSA §6902

EMS personnel may request Air Medical Transport (AMT) when operational and/or clinical conditions exist that would benefit from decreasing time to definitive care and/or advanced clinical capabilities offered by the AMT team.

The use of AMT is determined by the prehospital provider with the highest medical level providing patient care. It should not be determined by police or bystanders.

AMT does not require approval of on-line **Medical Direction**. However, if in doubt of the appropriateness of a patient for AMT, please contact **Medical Direction** as soon as possible.



OPERATIONAL CONDITIONS

- When a patient meets the defined clinical criteria listed below and the ground transport time to the closest hospital capable of providing definitive care (e.g., Level I or 2 trauma hospital, PCI center, stroke center) exceeds the ETA of air medical transport **OR**
- Patient location, weather, or road conditions preclude the use of ambulance, **OR**
- Multiple patients are present that will exceed the capabilities of local hospital and agencies.
- In general, the patient should begin movement toward the appropriate receiving facility as soon as practical. Consider landing zones to minimize total field time.

CLINICAL CONDITIONS

- Severe respiratory compromise with respiratory arrest or abnormal respiratory rate.
- Circulatory insufficiency: sustained systolic blood pressure <90mmHg in adults, age-appropriate hypotension in children, or other signs of shock.
- Neurologic compromise: total GCS <9, or motor component <5. If the patient's neurologic status improves above these limits, consider canceling the helicopter and transporting to the local hospital.
- Trauma: All penetrating injuries to head, neck, torso, and extremities proximal to elbow or knee; chest wall instability or deformity (e.g., flail chest); two or more proximal long-bone fractures; crushed, degloved, mangled, or pulseless extremity; amputation proximal to wrist or ankle; pelvic fracture; open or depressed skull fracture; paralysis.
- Burns: Major burns with greater than 20% BSA and/or inhalation injury with risk of airway compromise.
- Electrocution injuries with loss of consciousness, arrhythmia, or any respiratory abnormality.
- STEMI: If 12-lead ECG indicates a STEMI (e.g., machine indicates ***Acute MI Suspected*** and/or Paramedic interpretation).
- Stroke: 1 or more abnormal signs of the stroke scale; and consistent with local stroke plans.
- Critically ill children, including those with acute decompensation of chronic and/or special healthcare needs.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

- Patients with an uncontrolled airway or uncontrollable hemorrhage should be brought to the nearest hospital unless advanced life support (ALS) service (by ground or air) can intercept in a more timely fashion.
- AMT is **NOT** indicated for patients in cardiac arrest (**except for hypothermic arrest**). Should the patient go into cardiac arrest after AMT request, the AMT crew may be utilized for resuscitation and stabilization.
- AMT is **NOT** indicated for a contaminated patient until **AFTER** decontamination.
- AMT may be indicated in a wide range of conditions other than those listed above. In cases where the patient's status is uncertain, **consult with Medical Direction** and proceed as directed.
- Transfers from ground-ambulance to air-ambulance shall occur at the closest appropriate landing site, including a hospital heliport, an airport, or an unimproved landing site deemed safe per AMT crew discretion. In cases where a hospital heliport is used strictly as the ground-to-air ambulance transfer point, no transfer of care to the hospital is implied or should be assumed by hospital personnel, unless specifically requested by the EMS providers.





GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

In 2006, the Vermont Legislature passed legislation known as the Baby Safe Haven Law. This legislation provides a mechanism for parents to surrender infants up to 30 days old at locations and facilities that are capable of safeguarding the child and avoiding abandonment of extremely vulnerable infants. In that the language of the statute specifies 9-1-1 emergency responders at a location where the responder and the person have agreed to transfer the child as a Safe Haven location, it is possible that EMS personnel and organizations may receive infants. If another organization receives the infant, EMS may play a role in transporting the child to an emergency department for any necessary medical care and transition to custody of the Department for Children and Families staff. The text of the legislation reads:

SHORT TITLE- This act shall be known as the “Baby Safe Haven Law.”

LEGISLATIVE INTENT-It is the intent of the general assembly that this act provide a procedure which ensures the safety and well-being of newborns and infants. The general assembly recognizes that it is preferable for a wide array of services to be available to all expectant mothers and to newborn infants and their mothers. The procedure established in this act should be considered a safeguard that will be followed only in extraordinary circumstances.

Sec. 3. 13 V.S.A. § 1303 is amended to read:

Sec 3. 13 V.S.A. § 1303. ABANDONMENT OR EXPOSURE OF BABY

- (a) A person who abandons or exposes a child under the age of two years, whereby the life or health of such child is endangered, shall be imprisoned not more than ten years or fined not more than \$10,000.00, or both.
- (b)
 - (1) It is not a violation of this section if a person voluntarily delivers a child not more than 30 days of age to:
 - (A) An employee, staff member, or volunteer at a health care facility.
 - (B) An employee, staff member, or volunteer at a fire station, police station, place of worship, or an entity that is licensed or authorized in this state to place minors for adoption.
 - (C) A 9-1-1 emergency responder at a location where the responder and the person have agreed to transfer the child.
 - (2) A person voluntarily delivering a child under this subsection shall not be required to reveal any personally identifiable information, but may be offered the opportunity to provide information concerning the child’s or family’s medical history.
 - (3) A person or facility to whom a child is delivered pursuant to this subsection shall be immune from civil or criminal liability for any action taken pursuant to this subsection.
 - (4) A person or facility to whom a child is delivered pursuant to this subsection shall:
 - (A) Take temporary custody of the child and ensure that he or she receives any necessary medical care.
 - (B) Provide notice that he, she, or it has taken temporary custody of the child to a law enforcement agency.
 - (C) Provide notice that he, she, or it has taken temporary custody of the child to the department for children and family services, which shall take custody of the child as soon as practicable.

Policy Continues 



Policy Continues

- While the statute does not specifically mention EMS personnel or organizations, EMS may become involved as a 9-1-1 emergency responder. It is also likely that EMS will be involved when an infant is delivered to any other Safe Haven. Delivery of an infant to a Safe Haven location will be an infrequent but very stressful event. Infants being delivered to the Safe Haven are at considerable risk and every possible step to safeguard the health and welfare of the infant should be taken.
- A person delivering an infant under the provisions of the Baby Safe Haven law may not make the subtle distinctions between EMS facilities and other Safe Haven locations specifically mentioned in the law. EMS personnel and organizations should be prepared to play an appropriate role in the receipt of infants delivered under the provisions of the Baby Safe Haven law.
- EMS may be summoned by a Safe Haven that receives an infant (fire, police, place of worship, adoption agency, or health care facility). Guidance being provided by the Department for Children and Families for Safe Havens suggests that when an infant is received, the Safe Haven should call an ambulance to provide treatment and transportation. The primary roles of EMS in a Baby Safe Haven encounter are as with any other patient: assess, provide treatment as indicated, transport to a hospital.
- EMS organizations with stations that could be unoccupied may wish to consider signage on entryways indicating that persons wishing to deliver an infant under the provisions of the Baby Safe Haven law should call 9-1-1 to make arrangements if the station is not staffed and should not leave an infant unattended.
- EMS organizations may wish to reach out to Safe Haven locations in their primary service area to coordinate procedures and develop local plans for handling Safe Haven encounters.
- To order additional copies of Safe Haven posters and brochures, call 802-241-2131. To find out about training opportunities from the Department for Children and Families, call 800-649-4357 or go to babysafehaven.vermont.gov

PROCEDURE

- Although EMS organizations and personnel are not specifically mentioned in the Baby Safe Haven statute, as 9-1-1 emergency responders, EMS needs to be familiar with the provisions of the law and work to facilitate the protection of infants being received.
- When involved in a Baby Safe Haven encounter, upon receiving physical custody of the baby, whether you receive an infant from the parent, a Safe Haven, or another third party, examine the baby and provide any treatment necessary according to the appropriate clinical protocol(s).
- If possible, offer the person delivering the infant the Safe Haven brochure published by the Agency of Human Services if the infant is **not** picked up at a Safe Haven.
- If it has not already been done, attempt to advise the person delivering the infant into a Safe Haven that while she/he is not required to reveal any identifying information, she/he can provide information about the child's medical history using the [voluntary medical form](#) that is attached to the DCF Safe Haven brochure. Encourage the person to complete the form and leave it with you. If the form is left with you, complete the information at the bottom of it with the date you received the baby and your location. This information should be delivered to the DCF Family Services staff person. Document this information on your EMS patient care report form as well.
- Document on your EMS patient care report any additional information about the child, the birthparents, and/or the situation that is observed or offered voluntarily, including any names the person is *willing* to provide.

Policy Continues



Policy Continues

- Transport the infant to the hospital once appropriate EMS treatment has begun. If you receive an infant from a parent or other person, at the earliest possible opportunity, call the police of jurisdiction where you received the child and the local DCF, Family Services District Office or DCF Emergency Services contact to report what has happened (see list attached). The EMS personnel involved may have information about the parent, the circumstances of receiving the child, etc. that will be important to law enforcement and the DCF Family Services personnel, so it is important for the EMS personnel involved to make this contact. If you receive an infant from another Safe Haven, assure that the original receiver(s) have made the police and DCF contacts.
- **Important:** Once you have physical custody of the infant, always transport the child to a hospital. If the person who delivered the infant or another person comes back to you requesting the return of the baby, **do not** give the baby back. Instead, instruct the person to contact the Department of Children and Families at 800-649-4357. They will be referred to a social worker, who will assist them with the process. Urge them to act quickly, before a judge has terminated their parental rights.

DCF FAMILY SERVICES DISTRICT OFFICES AND STATEWIDE EMERGENCY SERVICES PROGRAM

BARRE – 802-479-4260

255 North Main Street, Suite 7
Barre, VT 05641-4189

BENNINGTON – 802-442-8138

200 Veterans Memorial Drive, Suite 14
Bennington, VT 05201-1956

BRATTLEBORO – 802-257-2888

232 Main Street, 2nd Floor
Brattleboro, VT 05301-2879

BURLINGTON – 802-863-7370

426 Industrial Ave. Ste. 130
Williston, VT 05495

HARTFORD – 802-295-8840

118 Prospect Street, Suite 400
White River Junction, VT 05001

MIDDLEBURY – 802-388-4660

156 South Village Green, Ste. 202
Middlebury, VT 05753

MORRISVILLE – 802-888-4576

63 Professional Drive, Suite 3
Morrisville, VT 05661-8522

NEWPORT – 802-334-6723

100 Main Street, Suite 230
Newport, VT 05855-4898

RUTLAND – 802-786-5817

88 Merchants Row
220 Asa Bloomer Bldg
Rutland, VT 05701-3449

ST. ALBANS – 802-527-7741

27 Federal Street, Suite 300
St. Albans, VT 05478-2247

ST. JOHNSBURY – 802-748-8374

1016 US Route 5, Suite 02
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819-5603

SPRINGFIELD – 802-289-0648

100 Mineral Street, Suite 101
Springfield, VT 05156-3166

STATEWIDE DCF Family Service's Emergency Services Program

For after hours, weekends and holidays
800-649-5285

Bariatric Care, Triage & Transport 8.3

PURPOSE

This policy provides guidance for providers concerning the triage, extrication, care and transport for bariatric patients. The Vermont EMS system strives to provide all patients, including bariatric patients, with timely and effective care that preserves the comfort, safety and dignity of the patients and ensures the safety of providers. At times, even a single patient can exceed the capacity of the immediately available resources. Like a multi-system trauma patient, a bariatric patient requires:

- Appropriate EMS resources to respond
- Appropriate protocols and equipment for the provision of care
- Specialized equipment for transfer to the ambulance and transport
- Careful selection of the appropriate destination hospital
- Pre-alerting of the ED to ensure adequate resources to manage the patient
- On scene times may be significantly extended for bariatric patients.

EQUIPMENT

Deployment of equipment and procedures shall be done under local or regional operating guidelines.

DEFINITIONS

A bariatric patient is a patient:

- Weight exceeds 400 pounds OR
- **Weight, girth, body contours and/or co-morbidities** challenge the ability of a two-person EMS crew to effectively manage.

DISPATCH

Bariatric Ambulance: If available, consider requesting a bariatric transport ambulance to respond to the scene. Resources should be requested as soon as it becomes clear that bariatric capabilities may be required. While standard ambulance stretchers can potentially handle some patients up to 750 pounds or more, the use of a specialized bariatric stretcher increases the ability to provide effective care, is more comfortable for the patient and enhances provider safety.

Additional Personnel: Consider requesting additional responders. Bariatric patients may require additional personnel to participate in lifting and moving. For significant extrications, consider designating a Safety Officer to oversee the safety of the operation in conjunction with Incident Command. It may be necessary to remove doors, walls or windows to carry out a safe extrication. The priorities are similar to extrication from a vehicle, although fixed property repair costs might be higher.

Paramedic: Consider requesting a paramedic. Even BLS bariatric patients present unique treatment challenges which may benefit from a higher level of care.

MEDICAL CARE

Medical care must take into account the unique challenges presented by the bariatric patient as well as the likelihood of extended on-scene times. Providers should use appropriately sized equipment to the extent it is available or can be readily obtained. For example, an appropriately sized blood pressure cuff will need to be used and intramuscular injection will be given with a longer needle.

If there are significant barriers to removing the patient from the structure in a timely manner (long narrow stairs, patient in the attic, etc.), there may be situations where EMS will provide extended care to the patient at the scene. In such cases, consult **Medical Direction** and consider use of the extended care protocols.



Policy Continues

8.3 Bariatric Care, Triage & Transport

Protocol Continues

TRANSFER TO AMBULANCE

Specialized equipment will be needed to transfer the patient safely from the scene to the ambulance stretcher for transport. Many services utilize large transfer flats for moving bariatric patients. Be sure before you use any patient transfer device that you understand the procedure for using it safely and that you know the weight limits of the device.

HOSPITAL DESTINATION

Ensure that you select a destination hospital that has the capabilities to care for your patient. Bariatric patients may require specialized hospital stretchers, CT scanners, catheterization laboratory equipment, operating room equipment, etc. It may be appropriate to consider an alternate destination after consultation with **Medical Direction**. Pre-notification serves both to ensure that the hospital is capable of caring for the patient and allows hospital staff time for adequate preparation. Communication with the hospital shall be in a professional manner. Respect for the patient's privacy and feelings will match the respect for all EMS patients.



TRANSPORT TO THE HOSPITAL

A bariatric stretcher should be used to transport the patient to the hospital and equipment cache transfer devices may be utilized to facilitate transfer of the patient to the hospital stretcher. Be alert to ensure that the stretcher is adequately secured in the patient compartment. Transfer flats or other specialized transfer equipment may be left in place to facilitate transfer of the patient to the hospital stretcher.

Policy 8.3

PEARLS

- It may be difficult to establish IV and IO access. Consider intramuscular or intranasal as alternatives for some medications. For IM, ensure that the needle used is sufficiently long.
- Weight-based calculations may yield inappropriately large doses in obese patients. Consult with **Medical Direction** when in doubt.
- Bariatric patients often have decreased functional residual capacity, and are at risk of rapid desaturation. Extremely obese individuals require more oxygen than non-obese individuals due to their diminished lung capacity. Pulse oximetry may not be reliable due to poor circulation. Even patients without respiratory distress may not tolerate the supine position.
- Bariatric patients may present with severe airway challenges. Carefully plan your approach to the airway, and be prepared with backup airway plans.
- If the patient has had recent bariatric surgery, possible complications may include anemia, dehydration, hypoglycemia, leakage, ulcers, localized infection, sepsis, etc.



Bloodborne/Airborne Pathogens 8.4

BLOOD BORNE PATHOGENS

Emergency medical services personnel should assume that all bodily fluids and tissues are potentially infectious with bloodborne pathogens and must protect themselves accordingly by use of appropriate Body Substance Isolation (BSI) and approved procedures.

Transmission of bloodborne pathogens has been shown to occur when infected blood or Other Potentially Infectious Materials ("OPIM") enter another individual's body through skin, mucous membrane, or parenteral contact.

STANDARD PRECAUTIONS

- Standard precautions include using protective barriers (such as gloves, masks, goggles, etc.), thorough hand washing, and proper use and disposal of needles and other sharp instruments. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidelines for hand hygiene include:
 - When hands are visibly dirty, contaminated, or soiled, wash with non-antimicrobial or antimicrobial soap and water.
 - If hands are not visibly soiled, use an alcohol-based hand rub for routinely decontaminating hands.
- Personnel with any open wounds should refrain from all direct patient care and from handling patient-care equipment, unless they can ensure complete isolation of these lesions and protection against seepage.
- Personnel who are potentially at risk of coming into contact with blood or OPIM are encouraged to obtain appropriate vaccines to decrease the likelihood of transmission.

EXPOSURE - PROCEDURES AND CONSIDERATIONS

- Personnel who have had a blood borne pathogen exposure should immediately flush the exposed area or wash with an approved solution. At a minimum, use warm water and soap.
- The exposed area should then be covered with a sterile dressing.
- As soon as possible, or after transfer of patient care, the EMS provider should thoroughly cleanse the exposed site and obtain a medical evaluation by the medical advisor as dictated by their department's Exposure Control Plan and/or Workers Compensation policy.

AIRBORNE PATHOGENS

- Emergency medical services personnel should assume that all patients who present with respiratory distress, cough, fever, or rash are potentially infectious with airborne pathogens and must protect themselves accordingly by use of appropriate Airborne Personal Protective Equipment (APPE), Body Substance Isolation (BSI), and approved procedures.

AIRBORNE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (APPE)

- The preferred APPE for EMS personnel is an N95 mask, to be worn whenever a patient is suspected of having any communicable respiratory disease.
- The N95 mask should be of the proper size for each individual provider, having been previously determined through an annual fit-test procedure.
- A surgical mask should also be placed on suspect patients, if tolerated. If oxygen therapy is indicated, a surgical mask should be placed over an oxygen mask to block pathogen release. This will require close monitoring of the patient's respiratory status and effort.

Policy Continues 

8.4 Bloodborne/Airborne Pathogens



PRE-HOSPITAL – PROCEDURES AND CONSIDERATIONS

- Early notification to the receiving hospital should be made such that the receiving hospital may enact its respective airborne pathogen procedures.
- Limit the number of personnel in contact with suspected patients to reduce the potential of exposure to others.
- Limit procedures that may result in the spread of the suspected pathogen, (e.g., nebulizer treatments), if feasible.
- Utilize additional HEPA filtration on equipment, (e.g., BVM or suction).
- Exchange of fresh air into the patient compartment is recommended during transport of a patient with a suspected airborne pathogen.
- EMS providers who believe they have been exposed to an airborne pathogen may proceed as above in getting timely medical care. The Patient Care Report enables hospital infection control staff to contact at-risk EMS personnel, should that patient be found to have a potential airborne pathogen such as tuberculosis, neisseria meningitidis, SARS, etc.

DECONTAMINATION AND FOLLOW-UP

- In addition to accepted procedures for cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and equipment with approved solutions and for the proper disposal of contaminated items, the use of fresh air ventilation should be incorporated (e.g., open all doors and windows to allow fresh air after arrival at the hospital).
- All personnel in contact with the patient should wash their hands thoroughly with warm water and an approved hand-cleansing solution. When soap and water are not immediately available, a hand sanitizer containing 60% isopropyl alcohol is recommended as an interim step until thorough hand washing is possible.
- Contaminated clothing should not be brought home by the employee for laundering, but laundered in a department provided washer or by other uniform cleaning arrangements.
- Ambulances equipped with airborne pathogen filtration systems should be cleaned and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines.
- As soon as possible following all suspected blood borne or airborne exposures, the EMS provider should complete all appropriate documentation as identified in their department's specific policies.

EMS providers should routinely advise the receiving hospital, in a timely manner, of patients enroute to that Emergency Department (except in Mass Casualty Incidents (MCI) during which routine communications cease).

An EMS provider may establish contact with a Medical Direction physician via VHF radio on one of the assigned medical frequencies or via telephone direct to each Emergency Department (via recorded EMS line, if available). If a Medical Direction physician is needed for consultation, request this before giving patient information. It is recommended that all medical communications be recorded.

VHF MEDICAL FREQUENCIES

- Initiate call to the appropriate hospital and identify:
 - Destination hospital.
 - Ambulance unit calling.
 - Status of the patient.

TELEPHONE

- To contact the destination hospital via telephone, use of a direct-recorded line to the Emergency Department is recommended.
- Request Medical Direction, if needed, give the name of the patient, his or her age, status, and complaint.

Upon establishing voice communication with the destination hospital/medical direction physician (if needed), present the following information in a concise and clear manner:

- Emergency response unit and level of care: Paramedic/Advanced-EMT/EMT, with ETA.
- Patient's age, sex, and status level.
- Patient's chief complaint.
- Patient's present medical condition.
- Patient's vital signs, including level of consciousness.
- Patient's physical signs of illness or injury.
- Patient's electrocardiogram rhythm, if indicated.
- Patient's relevant medical history.
- Prehospital diagnostic tests performed/results and treatment rendered/results.

Give a list of medications and allergies only if requested by the destination hospital, or if it is anticipated that a medication order would be given by Medical Direction.

8.6

Communications Failure

In case of a communications failure with Medical Direction due to equipment (cell phone, landline, radio) malfunction or incident location, the following will apply:

- EMS personnel may, within the limits of their level of licensure, perform necessary procedures described in these protocols that under normal circumstances would require online Medical Direction.
- These procedures shall be the minimum necessary to prevent the loss of life or the critical deterioration of a patient's condition.
- All procedures performed under this order, and the conditions that created the communications failure, need to be thoroughly documented.
- Attempts must be made to establish contact with Medical Direction as soon as possible.
- The EMS provider shall provide a written notification pertaining to the communications failure describing the events, including the patient's condition and treatment given, and referencing the EMS Incident Report. This report must be filed with the EMS District Medical Advisor and/or Hospital EMS Coordinator within 24 hours of the event.



Consent for Treatment of a Minor 8.7

A “minor” is a person who has not yet reached his/her eighteenth birthday.

Note that the legal definition of a “minor” for purposes of consent is unrelated to the medical definitions of “pediatric patient,” “child,” and “children,” as used in these protocols.

EMS personnel may treat minors under the doctrine of implied consent when the minor’s parent or other authorized representative is unavailable to provide expressed consent. With the exception of life-threatening emergencies, personnel should attempt to contact the minor’s parent or legal guardian to obtain informed consent to treat and transport the child. When a parent or legal guardian is unavailable, another authorized representative (e.g., a school or camp official), who has been expressly authorized by the minor’s parent, may consent to health care treatment.

A parent or legal guardian may refuse care for a minor:

- When a parent or legal guardian is not reasonably available, another adult family member (e.g., grandparent), or other authorized representative having custody of the minor, may refuse care.
- EMS personnel may accept a telephonic refusal of care, provided that they have explained the consequences of refusing care; telephonic refusal of care should be carefully documented.

Except for the special circumstances listed below, a minor may not refuse care. When a minor attempts to refuse care and/or transport to the hospital, EMS personnel should enlist the assistance of the police, including requesting that the police place the minor in protective custody. Minors should be restrained only as a last resort.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- A minor parent who has not yet reached his/her eighteenth birthday may consent to or refuse care on behalf of his or her minor children, provided that the minor parent has the capacity to understand the nature of the treatment and the possible consequences of consenting to or refusing care.
- Contact Medical Direction to discuss consent/refusals regarding minors. Always attempt to provide medical care that is in the best interest of the minor.
- Minors of any age may give informed consent to medical treatment associated with rape, incest or sexual abuse.
- An emancipated minor may consent to, or refuse care. A minor patient bears the burden of establishing, by legal documentation or otherwise, that he/she is emancipated. Vermont recognizes emancipation decrees lawfully obtained in other states (12 VSA §7157).

8.8

Crime Scene/ Preservation of Evidence

If you have been dispatched to a possible crime scene, including motor vehicle incidents, or if you believe a crime has been committed, immediately contact law enforcement.

Protect yourself and other EMS personnel. You will not be held liable for failing to act if a scene is not safe to enter. Once a crime scene is deemed safe by law enforcement, initiate patient contact and medical care if necessary.

- Have all EMS providers use the same path of entry and exit, if feasible.
- Do not walk through fluids.
- Do not touch or move anything at a crime scene unless it is necessary to do so for patient care (notify law enforcement prior to moving so if possible).
- Observe and document original location of items moved by crew.
- When removing patient clothing, leave it intact as much as possible.
 - Do not cut through clothing holes made by gunshot or stabbing.
- If you remove any items from the scene, such as impaled objects or medication bottles, document your actions and advise a law enforcement official.
- Do not sacrifice patient care to preserve evidence.
- Consider requesting a law enforcement officer to accompany the patient in the ambulance to the hospital.
- Document statements made by the patient or bystanders on the EMS patient care report.
 - Comments made by a patient or bystanders should be denoted in quotation marks.
- Inform staff at the receiving hospital that this is a “crime scene” patient.
- If the patient is obviously dead consistent with [Resuscitation Initiation and Termination Policy 8.17](#), notify law enforcement of decision not to initiate resuscitation/patient care.
- At motor vehicle incidents, preserve the scene by not driving over debris, not moving debris and parking away from tire marks, if feasible.

Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)/ Clinician Orders For Life Sustaining Treatment (COLST)

8.9

Medical Policy 8.9

PLEASE NOTE THE MANDATED USE OF THE VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S DNR/COLST FORM IN THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES:

All out-of-hospital DNR orders are mandated to be on the Department of Health's [Vermont DNR/COLST form](#).

- DNR orders signed prior to July 1, 2011 may continue to be recognized as valid for EMS encounters, if the document complies with statutory requirements.
- Health care facilities and residential care facilities may document DNR/COLST orders in the patient's medical record in a facility specific manner when the patient is in their care so long as they meet the criteria below.

TO BE VALID DNR/COLST ORDERS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- **DNR Orders must:**
 - Be signed by the patient's clinician.
 - Certify that the clinician has consulted, or made an effort to consult, with the patient, and the patient's agent or guardian, if there is an appointed agent or guardian.
 - Must include: the name of the patient, agent or guardian giving informed consent OR meet the futility standard (section A-3).
- **COLST Orders must:**
 - Be signed by the patient's clinician.
 - Include the name of the patient, agent or guardian giving informed consent.

PEARLS

- One essential element of providing quality end-of-life care involves honoring patient preferences.
- In the past a Do-Not-Resuscitate Order (DNR) has been used when a patient does not wish to have Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). In recent years the old "DNR" order has been incorporated into a new form known as the DNR/COLST order by the Vermont Department of Health. The old "DNR" order only dealt with CPR. The **DNR/COLST** order deals with CPR as well as intubation, transfer to hospital, antibiotics, hydration and overall goals of care and is **the only legal out-of-hospital DNR order in Vermont as of July 1, 2011 (old orders will be honored as long as they complied with the statute at the time they were executed). Healthcare and residential care facilities can document these orders in a facility specific manner for inpatients.**
- DNR/COLST is a more complete document that stands for: **Do Not Resuscitate Order/Clinician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment.**
- These are clinician orders that convey patient's wishes for CPR, intubation, transfer to the hospital, antibiotics, artificial nutrition and hydration, as well as overall treatment goals.
- EMS personnel are required to perform CPR if indicated for a victim of cardiac arrest unless there is a signed DNR/COLST order in the out-of-hospital setting or termination of resuscitation criteria are met. See [Resuscitation Initiation and Termination Policy 8.17](#).
- All forms of DNR/COLST remain valid during a transfer from one healthcare facility to another.

Policy Continues 

8.9 Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)/ Clinician Orders For Life Sustaining Treatment (COLST)

Policy Continued

PROCEDURE

- Patients should be assessed per routine procedures and if resuscitation is or may be needed, EMS personnel should make reasonable efforts to check the patient for a DNR identification (bracelet, necklace, anklet) or inquire if there is a written DNR/COLST order available. Attempt to determine the identity of the patient (specifically, name and date of birth).
- **If The Patient/Resident Has No Pulse And/Or No Respirations:**
 - GO TO SECTION A of the DNR/COLST form. If the DNR order is checked and there is a clinician signature or the patient has a DNR identification - Do Not initiate CPR or other resuscitation measures.
 - Do not perform chest compressions or actively assist ventilations via BVM.
 - Do not intubate or place advanced airway devices.
 - Do not defibrillate.
 - Do not administer resuscitation drugs to treat cardiac arrest or dysrhythmias (ventricular fibrillation, pulseless ventricular tachycardia, pulseless electrical activity, or asystole).
- **When Confronted With A Seriously Ill Patient Who Is Not In Cardiac Arrest But Is Breathing And/Or Has A Pulse:**
 - GO TO SECTIONS B-G of the DNR/COLST form to review Orders for Other Life-Sustaining Treatment. Check for do not intubate orders (DNI), transfer to hospital orders, orders for medical interventions and other instructions.
 - **Comfort Measures Only:** Use medication by any route, positioning, wound care and other measures to relieve pain and suffering. Use oxygen (including CPAP), oral suction and manual treatment of airway obstruction as needed for comfort.
 - **Limited Additional Interventions:** Includes care described in Sections B-E. Use medical treatments and IV fluids as indicated.
 - **Full treatment:** Includes care described in sections B-E. Use defibrillation and other interventions as indicated.

PEARLS

- A DNR Order (Section A of the DNR/COLST form) only precludes efforts to resuscitate in the event of cardiopulmonary arrest and does not affect other therapeutic interventions that may be appropriate for the patient. (Sections B through H of the COLST form address other interventions).
- EMS providers and other health care professionals must honor a DNR order or a DNR identification unless it is believed in good faith, after consultation with the patient, agent or guardian, where possible and appropriate:
 - That the patient wishes to have the DNR Order revoked if the Order is based on informed consent, or
 - That the patient with the DNR identification or order is not the individual for whom the DNR order was issued.
- A health care provider shall honor in good faith an out-of-state DNR order, orders for life sustaining treatment, or out-of-state DNR identification if there is no reason to believe that what has been presented is invalid.
- Statutory requirements for DNR or DNR/COLST require that the order be signed by the patient's clinician and include the name of the patient agent guardian or other individual giving informed consent and their relationship to the patient.
- In the absence of a valid DNR or DNR/COLST order, neither a spouse nor a healthcare agent/durable power of attorney may direct you to withhold resuscitation in the event of a cardiac arrest. **Contact Medical Direction for guidance.**
- Photocopies and faxes of signed DNR/COLST forms are legal and valid.
- An Advanced Directive (formerly referred to as Living Will) is different than DNR/COLST. An Advance Directive is completed by the patient, allows for nuances and is not honored in an out of hospital emergency. The DNR/COLST order is completed by a clinician, is black and white and is honored in an out of hospital emergency.
- **Contact Medical Direction** for circumstances not specifically covered by this protocol. Document in SIREN any actions taken or not taken based on a DNR/COLST order.

Policy Continues

Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)/ Clinician Orders For Life Sustaining Treatment (COLST)

8.9



INSTRUCTIONS FOR CLINICIANS COMPLETING VERMONT DNR/COLST FORM

(DO NOT RESUSCITATE ORDER/CLINICIAN ORDERS FOR LIFE SUSTAINING TREATMENT)

Completing DNR/COLST

- The DNR/COLST form must be completed and signed by a health care clinician based on patient preferences and medical indications. A clinician is defined as a medical doctor, osteopathic physician, advance practice registered nurse or physician assistant. 18 V.S.A. § 9701(5). Verbal orders are acceptable with follow-up signature by the clinician in accordance with facility/community policy.
- Photocopies and Faxes of signed COLST forms are legal and valid; use of original is encouraged.

Special requirements for completing the DNR section of COLST (18 V.S.A. §§9708, 9709)

- A DNR order may be written on the basis of either informed consent or futility. Complete section A-2 for informed consent; Section A-3 for futility.
- An order based on informed consent must include the name of the patient, agent, guardian, or other individual giving informed consent. Beginning January 2018 the name of the patient, agent, guardian, or surrogate.
- An order based on futility must include a certification by the clinician and a second clinician that resuscitation would not prevent the imminent death of the patient, should the patient experience cardiopulmonary arrest.
- If patient is in a health care facility, the clinician must certify that the requirements of the facility's DNR protocol as required by 18 V.S.A. § 9709 have been met
- The clinician shall authorize the issuance of a DNR identification to the patient
- Clinician must certify that clinician has consulted or made an attempt to consult with the patient, and the patient's agent or guardian.

Using DNR Order - Section A CPR/DNR - 18 V.S.A. § 9708(i) and (l)

- A DNR Order (Section A of the DNR/COLST form) only precludes efforts to resuscitate in the event of cardiopulmonary arrest and does not affect other therapeutic interventions that may be appropriate for the patient. (Sections B through H of the COLST Form address other interventions.)
- Health care professionals, health care facilities, and residential care facilities must honor a DNR order or a DNR Identification unless the professional or facility believes in good faith, after consultation with the patient, agent or guardian, where possible and appropriate
 - that the patient wishes to have the DNR Order revoked, or
 - that the patient with the DNR identification or order is not the individual for whom the DNR order was issued.

Documentation of basis for belief in medical record is required.

Using COLST (Sections B through H)

- Any section of COLST not completed indicates that the COLST order does not address that topic. It may be addressed in a patient's advance directive, or in other parts of the medical record.
- Oral fluids and nutrition must always be offered if medically feasible.
- When comfort cannot be achieved in the current setting, the person, including someone with "comfort measures only", may be transferred to a setting able to provide comfort.
- Treatment of dehydration is a measure that may prolong life. For a patient who desires IV fluids the order should indicate "Limited Interventions" or Full Treatment."
- A patient with or without capacity, or another person authorized to provide consent, may revoke the COLST order at any time and request alternative treatment. Exceptions may apply. See, 18 V.S.A. § 9707(h) or 18 V.S.A. § 9707(g).
- Photocopies and faxes of signed DNR/COLST forms are legal and valid; use of original is encouraged.

Reviewing DNR/COLST

This form should be reviewed periodically and a new form completed if necessary when:

1. The patient is transferred from one care setting or care level to another, or
2. There is a substantial change in the patient's health status, or
3. The patient's treatment preferences change, or
4. At least annually, but more frequently in residential or inpatient settings.

Voiding DNR/COLST

To void this form or a part of it, draw a line through each page or section to be voided and write "VOID" in large letters.

8.9

Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)/ Clinician Orders For Life Sustaining Treatment (COLST)

Patient Name / D.O.B. _____ / _____

DNR/COLST		Patient Last Name
CLINICIAN ORDERS		Patient First/Middle Initial
for DNR/CPR and OTHER LIFE SUSTAINING TREATMENT		Date of Birth
FIRST follow these orders, THEN contact Clinician.		
(If patient/resident has no pulse and/or no respirations)		
A	DO NOT RESUSCITATE (DNR)	CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION (CPR)
	<input type="checkbox"/> DNR/Do Not Attempt Resuscitation (Allow Natural Death)	<input type="checkbox"/> CPR/Attempt Resuscitation
For patient who is breathing and/or has a pulse, GO TO SECTION B – G, PAGE 2 FOR OTHER INSTRUCTIONS. CLINICIANS MUST COMPLETE SECTIONS A-1 THROUGH A-5		
A-1 Basis for DNR Order Informed Consent - Complete Section A-2 Futility - Complete Section A-3		
A-2 Informed Consent Informed Consent for this DO NOT RESUSCITATE (DNR) Order has been obtained from: Name of Person Giving Informed Consent (Can be Patient) _____ Relationship to Patient (Write "self" if Patient) _____ Signature (If Available) _____		
A-3 Futility (required if no consent) <input type="checkbox"/> I have determined that resuscitation would not prevent the imminent death of this patient should the patient experience cardiopulmonary arrest. Another clinician has also so determined: Name of Other Clinician Making this Determination (Print here) _____ Signature of Other Clinician _____ Dated: _____		
A-4 Facility DNR Protocol (required if applicable) This patient is <input type="checkbox"/> is not <input type="checkbox"/> in a health care facility or a residential care facility. Name of Facility: _____ If this patient is in a health care facility or a residential care facility, the requirements of the facility's DNR protocol have been met. _____ (Initial here if protocol requirements have been met.)		
A-5 DNR Identification (optional) I have authorized issuance of a DNR Identification (ID) to this patient. Form of ID: _____		
Certification and signature for DNR	A-6 Clinician Certifications and Signature for CPR/DNR (required) I have consulted, or made an effort to consult with the patient and the patient's agent or guardian. Patient's Agent or Guardian _____ Address or Phone _____ I certify that I am the clinician for the above patient, and I certify that the above statements are true. Signature of Clinician _____ Printed Name of Clinician _____ Dated: _____	
GIVE COPY TO PATIENT AND REPRESENTATIVE		
SEND FORM WITH PATIENT WHENEVER TRANSFERRED OR DISCHARGED		

Medical Policy 8.9

Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)/ Clinician Orders For Life Sustaining Treatment (COLST)

8.9

Patient Name / D.O.B. _____ / _____

Medical Policy 8.9

HIPAA PERMITS DISCLOSURE OF COLST TO OTHER HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS AS NECESSARY ORDERS FOR OTHER LIFE-SUSTAINING TREATMENT (If patient/resident is breathing and/or has pulse)	
B	INTUBATION AND MECHANICAL VENTILATION INSTRUCTIONS: If patient has DNR order and has progressive or impending pulmonary failure <u>without</u> acute cardiopulmonary arrest: <input type="checkbox"/> Do Not Intubate/Multi-Lumen Airway (DNI) <input type="checkbox"/> Trial Period of Intubation/Multi-Lumen Airway and ventilation <input type="checkbox"/> Intubation/Multi-Lumen Airway and long-term mechanical ventilation if needed
C	TRANSFER TO HOSPITAL <input type="checkbox"/> Do not transfer unless comfort care needs cannot be met in current location or if severe symptoms cannot be otherwise controlled <input type="checkbox"/> Transfer
D	ANTIBIOTICS <input type="checkbox"/> No antibiotics. Use other measures to relieve symptoms <input type="checkbox"/> Determine use or limitation of antibiotics when infection occurs, with comfort as goal <input type="checkbox"/> Use antibiotics
E	ARTIFICIALLY ADMINISTERED NUTRITION: Offer food and liquids by mouth if feasible. Feeding tube <input type="checkbox"/> No feeding tube <input type="checkbox"/> Trial period of feeding tube (Goal: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Long-term feeding tube Parenteral nutrition or hydration (e.g. IV fluids or Total Parenteral Nutrition) <input type="checkbox"/> No parenteral nutrition or hydration <input type="checkbox"/> Trial period of parenteral nutrition or hydration (Goal: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Long term parenteral nutrition or hydration
F	MEDICAL INTERVENTIONS: <input type="checkbox"/> COMFORT MEASURES ONLY Use medication by any route, positioning, wound care and other measures to relieve pain and suffering. Use oxygen, oral suction and manual treatment of airway obstruction as needed for comfort. Offer food and fluids by mouth, if feasible. <input type="checkbox"/> LIMITED ADDITIONAL INTERVENTIONS Includes care described above. Use medical treatments and IV fluids as indicated. <i>Avoid intensive care if possible.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> FULL TREATMENT Includes care described above. Use defibrillation and intensive care as indicated.
G	Other Instructions :
GIVE COPY TO PATIENT AND REPRESENTATIVE SEND FORM WITH PATIENT WHENEVER TRANSFERRED OR DISCHARGED	

8.9

Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)/ Clinician Orders For Life Sustaining Treatment (COLST)

Patient Name / D.O.B. _____ / _____

HIPAA PERMITS DISCLOSURE OF COLST TO OTHER HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS AS NECESSARY

H	Informed Consent and Clinician Signature for COLST Order (Sections B through G)		
Informed Consent for this COLST Order has been obtained from:			
Name of Person Giving Informed Consent (Patient if competent)		Relationship to Patient (Write "self" if Patient)	
Signature _____			
Clinician Signature for COLST			
Signature of Clinician _____		Printed Name of Clinician _____	
Dated: _____			

Print Clinician Name	Clinician Signature (mandatory)	Phone Number
Person providing consent's signature (if available)		Date

Other Contact Information (Optional)			
Name of Guardian, Agent or other Contact Person	Relationship	Phone Number	
Name of Health Care Professional Preparing Form	Preparer Title/Facility	Phone Number	Date Prepared

Review Date	Reviewer	Location of Review	Review Outcome
			<input type="checkbox"/> No Change <input type="checkbox"/> New form completed <input type="checkbox"/> Form Voided
			<input type="checkbox"/> No Change <input type="checkbox"/> New form completed <input type="checkbox"/> Form Voided
			<input type="checkbox"/> No Change <input type="checkbox"/> New form completed <input type="checkbox"/> Form Voided

SEND FORM WITH PATIENT WHENEVER TRANSFERRED OR DISCHARGED

Medical Policy 8.9

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If VT e911 PSAP (9-1-1 Call Center) advises that the patient is suspected of having Ebola, put on appropriate PPE BEFORE entering the scene and follow instructions for Suspect Case for Ebola Virus Disease below. Personnel with First Responder agencies without appropriate PPE should NOT enter scene or have contact with patient.

Only one EMS provider should approach the patient and perform initial screening from at least 3 feet away as follows:

Identify travel and exposure history: Has the patient lived in or traveled to areas with widespread Ebola transmissions, **OR** had contact with blood or body fluids (including but not limited to urine, saliva, vomit, sweat, and diarrhea) of a patient known to have or suspected to have Ebola within the previous 21 days?

NO – Proceed with normal EMS care

YES – Proceed with questions about signs and symptoms

Identify signs and symptoms: Does the patient have a fever (subjective or > 100.4°F or 38.0°C) **or ANY** of the following Ebola-compatible symptoms: severe headache, weakness, muscle pain, fatigue, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, or unexplained hemorrhage (bleeding or bruising)?

NO – Proceed with normal EMS care and appropriate PPE and notify receiving facility of exposure history

YES – Consider the patient a **Suspect Case for Ebola Virus Disease**. Notify the receiving hospital before transport and the VT Department of Health at 802-863-7240, and implement the following **IMMEDIATELY**:

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Based on the clinical presentation of the patient, there are two PPE options:

- If the patient is not exhibiting obvious bleeding, vomiting, or diarrhea, and does not have a clinical condition that warrants invasive or aerosol-generating procedures (e.g., intubation, suctioning, active resuscitation), then EMS personnel should at a minimum wear the following PPE:
 - A. Face shield and surgical face mask
 - B. Impermeable gown, and
 - C. Two pairs of gloves.
- If the patient is exhibiting obvious bleeding, vomiting, or diarrhea, or has a clinical condition that warrants invasive or aerosol-generating procedures (e.g., intubation, suctioning, active resuscitation), then immediately don appropriate PPE that leaves no skin exposed and includes the following:
 - **PAPR** (powered air purifying respirator) or **N95 Respirator** with single-use disposable full-face shield **and either** surgical hood **or** coverall with integrated hood. Ensure complete coverage of the head and neck.
 - If using surgical hood option, may use single-use fluid-resistant or impermeable gown that extends to at least mid-calf **or** coverall without integrated hood. If not using surgical hood, use coverall with integrated hood.
 - Double gloves. Single-use nitrile examination gloves, outer with extended cuffs.
 - Boot covers that are waterproof and go to at least mid-calf or leg covers
 - Apron that is waterproof and covers the torso to the level of the mid-calf should be used if patient has vomiting or diarrhea.
 - PPE should be put on before entering the scene and continued to be worn until personnel are no longer in contact with the patient. PPE should be carefully put on as per CDC guidelines and under supervision by a trained observer who may be another member of the EMS crew.
 - PPE should be carefully removed in an area designated by the receiving hospital as per CDC guidelines and under supervision by a trained observer.

Protocol Continues

Medical Policy 8.10

Protocol Continued

PPE Continued:

- If during initial patient contact and assessment and before an EMS provider has donned the appropriate PPE, it becomes apparent that the patient is a suspected case of Ebola, the EMS provider must immediately remove themselves from the area and assess whether an exposure occurred. The provider should implement their agency's exposure plan, if indicated by assessment.
- EMS personnel wearing PPE who have cared for the patient must remain in the back of the ambulance and not be the driver.

General Guidance:

- Keep the patient separated from other persons as much as possible.
- Minimize the number of EMS personnel that directly care for the patient as appropriate depending on the condition of the patient and scene.
- Consider obtaining additional resources or mutual aid to ensure adequate staffing and PPE. Recommended crew includes 2 patient care providers, and one driver.
- Use caution when approaching a patient with Ebola. Illness can cause delirium, with erratic behavior that can place EMS personnel at risk of infection, e.g., flailing, staggering.
- Initiate transport to the closest facility. Consider transport directly to UVMHC or DHMC if additional transport time < 15 minutes. Contact **Medical Direction** for guidance.
- Notify the receiving hospital before transport and notify the VT Department of Health at 802-863-7240.
- Patients being monitored by VT Department of Health who develop symptoms and inter-facility transfers will be transported by designated ground units (UVM Healthnet Transport, DHART).
- Keep an accurate list of all EMS personnel involved in care of a suspect patient.
- If blood, body fluids, secretions, or excretions from a patient with suspected Ebola come into direct contact with the EMS provider's skin or mucous membranes, then the EMS provider should disengage when safe to do so. They should wash the affected skin surfaces with soap and water and mucous membranes (e.g., conjunctiva) should be irrigated with a large amount of water or eyewash solution. Report exposure to an occupational health provider or supervisor for follow-up and receive medical evaluation.
- Follow CDC guidelines for cleaning EMS transport vehicles after transporting a patient with suspected or confirmed Ebola.
- EMS personnel involved in care of a suspect or known Ebola case must follow up with VDH to determine appropriate monitoring, follow-up and reporting requirements.
- Contact the Vermont Department of Health 802-863-7240 and **Medical Direction** for guidance for patients that refuse transport or are deceased on scene.

Medical Care Guidance:

- If patient is cooperative and able to assist, request the patient put on a Tyvek coverall. If the patient cannot tolerate the Tyvek coverall, or the coverall is likely to interfere with patient care activities, or the patient cannot assist in putting it on, the patient may be wrapped in a sheet or similar barrier to prevent environmental contamination.
- Limit activities, especially during transport that can increase the risk of exposure to infectious material.
- Limit aerosol-generating procedures such as nebulized medications, CPAP, intubation or suctioning unless absolutely necessary for patient care.
- Limit the use of needles and other sharps as much as possible. IVs should not be started unless the patient is in emergent need of volume replacement or IV medications. No sharps are to be utilized in a moving vehicle. All needles and sharps should be handled with extreme care and disposed in puncture-proof, sealed containers.
- Consider giving the patient oral medicine to reduce nausea. See [Nausea/Vomiting Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 2.11](#).
- If patient is vomiting, give them a large red biohazard bag to contain any emesis.
- See <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/ems-911-patients-with-possible-ebola.pdf>

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Implantable Ventricular Assist Devices (VAD)

8.11

Policy 8.11

EMT/ ADVANCED EMT / PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

Patient Care Goals

- Rapid identification of, and interventions for, cardiovascular compromise in patients with VADs
- Rapid identification of, and interventions for VAD-related malfunctions or complications

Indications

- Adult patients that have had an implantable ventricular assist device (VAD) including Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD), right ventricular assist device (RVADs); and biventricular-assist devices (BiVADs) and have symptoms of cardiovascular compromise
- Patients with VADs that are in cardiac arrest
- Patients with VADs that are experiencing a medical or injury-related event not involving the cardiovascular system or VAD malfunction

Contraindications

- Adult patients who do not have a VAD in place.

Assessment:

- Assess for possible pump malfunction
 - Assess for alarms
 - Auscultate for pump sound “hum”
 - Signs of hypoperfusion including pallor, diaphoresis, altered mental status
- If the VAD pump has malfunctioned:
 - Utilize available resources to troubleshoot potential VAD malfunctions and to determine appropriate corrective actions to restore normal VAD function:
 - Contact the patient’s VAD-trained companion, if available,
 - Contact the patient’s VAD coordinator, using the phone number on the device
 - Check all the connections to system controller
 - Change VAD batteries, and/or change system controller if indicated
 - Have patient stop all activity and assess for patient tolerance
 - Follow appropriate cardiovascular condition-specific protocol(s) as indicated

Treatment and Interventions:

- Manage airway as indicated
- Cardiac monitoring
- IV Access
- Acquire 12-lead ECG. Transmit if possible.
- **If patient is experiencing VAD-related complications or cardiovascular problems, expedite transport to a tertiary care facility if patient’s clinical condition and time allows.**
- **If patient has a functioning VAD and is experiencing a non-cardiovascular-related problem, transport to a facility that is appropriate for the patient’s main presenting problem without manipulating the device.**

Protocol Continues

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Implantable Ventricular Assist Device (VAD)

Protocol Continued

EMT/ ADVANCED EMT / PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

Treatment and Interventions - continued:

- If patient has a functioning VAD and is experiencing a non-cardiovascular-related problem, transport to a facility that is appropriate for the patient's main presenting problem without manipulating the device
- If patient is in full cardiac arrest
- CPR should NOT be performed if there is any evidence the pump is still functioning. The decision whether to perform CPR should be made based upon best clinical judgment in consultation with the patient's VAD-trained companion and the VAD coordinator (or medical control if VAD coordinator unavailable). CPR may be initiated only where:
 - You have confirmed the pump has stopped AND troubleshooting efforts to restart it have failed, AND
 - The patient is unresponsive and has no detectable signs of life

PEARLS

- You do not need to disconnect the controller or batteries in order to defibrillate or cardiovert
- You do not need to disconnect the controller or batteries in order to acquire a 12-lead EKG
- Flow though many VAD devices is not pulsatile and patients may not have a palpable pulse or accurate pulse oximetry
- The blood pressure, if measurable, may not be an accurate measure of perfusion.
- Ventricular fibrillation, ventricular tachycardia, or asystole/PEA may be the patient's "normal" underlying rhythm. Evaluate clinical condition and provide care in consultation with VAD coordinator
- The patient's travel bag should accompany him/her at all times with back-up controller and spare batteries
- If feasible, bring the patient's Power Module, cable and Display Module with patient to the hospital
- All patients should carry a spare pump controller with them
- The most common cause for VAD alarms are low batteries or battery failures
- Although automatic non-invasive blood pressure cuffs are often ineffective in measuring systolic and diastolic pressure, if they do obtain a measurement, the MAP is usually accurate
- Other VAD complications:

○ Infection	○ Arrhythmias	○ CHF
○ Stroke / TIA	○ Cardiac Tamponade	○ Aortic Insufficiency
○ Bleeding		

Protocol Continues

Implantable Ventricular Assist Device (VAD)

8.11

Protocol Continued

EMT/ ADVANCED EMT / PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

Key Documentation Elements

- Information gained from the VAD control box indicating any specific device malfunctions
- Interventions performed to restore a malfunctioning VAD to normal function
- Time of notification to and instructions from VAD-trained companion and/or VAD Coordinator

Performance Measures

- Identify and mitigate any correctable VAD malfunctions
- Perform CPR for patients in cardiac arrest when indicated

Resources:

Recommended Unit Resource: Print EMS Guide for Mechanical Circulatory Support Organization and place in all ambulances (40 pages). This guide has excellent information and trouble shooting guidance for VAD devices that patients could have out in the public. Access the resource guide at: <http://www.mylvad.com/sites/mylvadrp/files/Field%20Guides%20Master%20Document.pdf>.

Download onto your ambulances laptops the "MyLVAD Hospital Locator App



References:

- Garg S, Ayers CR, Fitzsimmons C, et al. In-Hospital Cardiopulmonary Arrests in Patients With Left Ventricular Assist Devices. J Card Fail. 2014;20(12):899-904. doi:10.1016/j.cardfail.2014.10.007
- Mabvuure NT., et al., External cardiac compression during cardiopulmonary resuscitation with left ventricular assist devices Interact Cardiovasc Thorac Surg. 2014 Aug;19(2):286-9.
- Mechem M., Prehospital assessment and management of patients with ventricular-assist devices Prehosp Emerg Care. 2013 Apr-Jun;17(2):223-9.
- Shinar Z., et. al., Chest compressions may be safe in arresting patients with left ventricular assist devices (LVADs) Resuscitation 2014 May;85(5):702-4.

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Policy 8.11

Non-EMS Personnel at the Emergency Scene

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Emergency medical care is a continuum involving the concerted, integrated efforts of prehospital providers, physicians, nurses, allied health personnel, clergy and mental health workers. Recognizing this offers a guide for dealing with non-prehospital providers who wish to render assistance on the scene of an emergency.

NON-PHYSICIAN INTERVENTION ON THE SCENE

(Nurses, midwives, physician assistants, allied health personnel, clergy, mental health workers, etc.)

- Control of the medical care at an emergency scene is the responsibility of the individual in attendance who is most appropriately trained and knowledgeable in providing prehospital emergency stabilization and transport. With few exceptions, this is the on-duty responding EMS licensee of the highest license level. The intervener should be thanked by a member of the responding EMS crew and be asked to report any care that was provided prior to EMS arrival.
- Confrontation should be avoided whenever possible. The appropriate involvement of non-prehospital providers should be determined by the licensed responding prehospital providers.
- On-line medical direction should be sought for situations where a cooperative working relationship is failing or has failed, or the non-prehospital provider refuses to relinquish care of the patient.
- In any circumstance where the prehospital provider believes that care proposed by an intervener deviates from protocols, follow these protocols and seek on-line medical direction.

PHYSICIAN INTERVENTION ON THE SCENE

- Prehospital providers control an emergency scene, even in the presence of a physician.
- When EMS personnel encounter a person claiming to be a physician at the scene, one of the prehospital providers should take reasonable steps to verify the identity of the physician without restricting the physician's access to provide potentially lifesaving care.
- Patient's private physician:
 - If the patient's private physician is present and assumes responsibility for the patient's care, the prehospital provider should generally defer to the orders of the private physician within the limits of the provider's training and licensure.
 - Medical direction should be contacted.
 - The private physician should be expected to accompany the patient to the hospital if interventions beyond the scope and practice of the providers have occurred.
 - The prehospital provider reverts back to following these protocols and on-line medical direction at any time when the patient's private physician is no longer in attendance.
- Not the patient's private physician:
 - If on-line medical direction CANNOT be established:
 - The prehospital provider should generally relinquish responsibility for the patient's care when the physician has identified himself and has indicated a willingness to assume responsibility and document any interventions when this care appears competent and appropriate. Always act in the best interest of the patient.
 - The prehospital provider should defer to the wishes of the physician on the scene within the limits of the provider's training and licensure.
 - If the care and treatment differ from these protocols, the physician must agree in advance to accompany the patient to the hospital.
 - In the event of a mass casualty incident or disaster, patient care needs may require the physician to remain at the scene.
 - The prehospital provider reverts back to following these protocols and on-line medical direction at any time when this physician is no longer in attendance.
 - If on-line medical direction CAN be established:
 - The on-line physician is ultimately responsible.
 - Should any disagreement between the physician on the scene and the on-line physician exist, the prehospital provider should follow the orders from the on-line physician and place the intervener physician in contact with the on-line physician.
 - The on-line physician has the option of managing the case entirely, working with the physician, or allowing the on-scene physician to assume responsibility.
- The details of any encounter with an intervener should be documented. Include the intervener's name, qualifications, and any care provided by the intervener.



PATIENT TRANSPORT

23 VSA §1258 requires all children to be properly restrained when riding in a vehicle. An ill or injured child must be restrained in a manner that minimizes injury in an ambulance crash. The best location for transporting a pediatric patient is on the ambulance cot. The method of restraint will be determined by various circumstances including the child's medical condition and weight. Child passengers should never be transported in a side-facing orientation (i.e. on a bench seat or CPR chair).

1. Convertible car seat with two belt paths (front and back) with four points for belt attachment to the cot is considered best practice for pediatric patients who can tolerate a semi-upright position.

- Position safety seat on cot facing foot-end with backrest fully elevated to meet the back of the child safety seat.
- Secure safety seat with 2 pairs of belts at both forward and rear points of seat.
- Place shoulder straps of the harness through slots just below child's shoulders and fasten snugly to child.
- Follow manufacturer's guidelines regarding child's weight.



Note: Non-convertible safety seats cannot be secured safely to cot. If child's personal safety seat is not a convertible seat, it cannot be used on the cot.



2. Stretcher harness device with 5-point harness (examples: Ferno Pedi-Mate, SafeGuard Transport, ACR)
 - Attach securely to cot utilizing upper back strap behind cot and lower straps around cot's frame.
 - 5-point harness must rest snugly against child.
 - Adjust head portion of cot according to manufacturer's recommendation.
 - Follow manufacturer's guidelines regarding weight.

3. Car bed with both a front and rear belt path
 - For infants who cannot tolerate a semi-upright position or who must lie flat.
 - Position car bed so infant lies perpendicular to cot, keeping infant's head toward center of patient compartment.
 - Fully raise backrest and anchor car bed to cot with 2 belts, utilizing 4 loop straps supplied with car bed.
 - Only appropriate for infants from 5 – 20 lbs.



Policy Continues



8.13 Pediatric Transportation

← Policy Continued

4. Child belted directly to backboard and/or cot in manner to prevent ramping or sliding in a front or rear end crash
 - Loop narrow belt under each arm and extend over child's shoulder securing belt at shoulder level so no gap exists above shoulder.
 - Use soft, sliding, or breakaway connector to hold shoulder straps together on chest.
 - Anchor 2 belts to non-sliding cot member and route over thighs and hips, not around waist.



5. Properly secure isolette and infant according to manufacturer's guidelines.
 - Rest harness securely on child with no blanket or sheet between harness and child.
 - Attach to isolette tray at four points.
 - Additional soft Velcro straps may be added for lateral security.
 - Blanket or towels may be used to provide stabilization of the head.

NON-PATIENT TRANSPORT

Best practice is to transport well children in a vehicle other than the ambulance, whenever possible, for safety.

If no other vehicle is available and circumstances dictate that the ambulance must transport a well child, he/she may be transported in the following locations:

- Captain's chair in patient compartment using a size appropriate integrated seat or a convertible safety seat that is secured safely in relationship to the orientation of the captain's chair.
- Passenger seat of the driver's compartment if child is large enough (according to manufacturer's guidelines) to ride forward-facing in a child safety seat or booster seat. Airbag should be turned off. If the air bag can be deactivated, an infant, restrained in a rear-facing infant seat, may be placed in the passenger seat of the driver's compartment.

USE OF PATIENT'S CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY SEAT AFTER INVOLVEMENT IN MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH

The patient's safety seat may be used to transport the child to the hospital after involvement in a minor crash if ALL of the following apply:

- It is a convertible seat with both front and rear belt paths.
- Visual inspection, including under movable seat padding, does not reveal cracks or deformation.
- Vehicle in which safety seat was installed was capable of being driven from the scene of the crash.
- Vehicle door nearest the child safety seat was undamaged.
- The air bags (if any) did not deploy.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this protocol is to give EMS guidance for patients who are in police custody, restrained, and/or protective custody is required.

PROTECTIVE CUSTODY

Protective custody is a civil status in which an incapacitated person is detained by a law enforcement officer for the purposes of:

- (a) Assuring the safety of the individual or the public or both; and
- (b) Assisting the individual to return to a functional condition.
 - For patients who present an immediate risk of serious injury to themselves or others, consult with law enforcement or a mental health professional about the use of protective custody to transport the patient to the Emergency Department for an emergency examination. ([18 VSA §7505](#))
 - Patients who present with evidence of incapacitation from alcohol or drug use may be placed into protective custody and transported to the Emergency Department ([18 VSA §4808](#)).

POLICE CUSTODY

Police custody means a person is under arrest. Patients in police custody who require medical care should be transported to a medical facility.

DECISION TO TRANSPORT TO THE HOSPITAL

- If law enforcement refuses to place a patient into protective custody at the request of EMS, or if police and EMS disagree about whether a patient in police custody requires transport to a medical facility for further assessment or treatment, on-line Medical Direction must be contacted and a law enforcement supervisor should be requested for guidance.
- If Medical Direction advises that the patient needs to be transported to the Emergency Department but you are unable to do so, document circumstances carefully in your chart and communicate with Medical Direction.
- Patient medical condition is of primary concern when determining destination. When condition allows, consider law enforcement requests.

EMS INITIATED RESTRAINTS

For any patient potentially requiring restraints by EMS, see the [Restraints Medical Procedure 6.5](#).

POLICE RESTRAINT DEVICES

Patients transported by EMS who have been restrained by law enforcement devices (e.g., handcuffs) should be accompanied, in the patient compartment, by a law enforcement officer who is capable of removing the device. If this is not feasible, the officer MUST follow directly behind the transporting ambulance to the receiving hospital.

CONDUCTED ELECTRICAL WEAPONS

Patients who have been subdued by a conducted electrical weapon (i.e., Taser™), see [Taser \(Conducted Electrical Weapon\) Medical Procedure 6.6](#).

PEPPER SPRAY

Patients who have been subdued by pepper spray, see [Eye and Dental Injuries Protocol 4.2](#).

EXCITED DELIRIUM

Excited/Agitated Delirium is characterized by extreme restlessness, irritability, and/or high fever. Patients exhibiting these signs are at high risk for sudden death, see [Restraint Procedure 6.5](#).

PURPOSE

Establish guidelines for the management and documentation of situations where patients refuse treatment or transportation.

REFUSAL OF CARE

There are three components to a valid refusal of care. Absence of any of these components will most likely result in an invalid refusal. The three components are as follows:

1. **Competence:** In general, a patient who is an adult or a legally emancipated minor is considered legally competent to refuse care. A parent or legal guardian who is on-scene or available by phone, may refuse care on his or her minor children's behalf.
2. **Capacity:** In order to refuse medical assistance a patient must have the capacity to understand the nature of his or her medical condition, the risks and benefits associated with the proposed treatment, and the risks associated with refusal of care.
3. **Informed Refusal:** A patient must be fully informed about his or her medical condition, the risks and benefits associated with the proposed treatment and the risks associated with refusing care.

Patients who meet criteria to allow self-determination shall be allowed to make decisions regarding their medical care, including refusal of evaluation, treatment, or transport. These criteria include:

1. Adults (≥ 18 years of age or a legally emancipated minor).
2. Orientation to person, place, time, and situation.
3. No evidence of altered level of consciousness resulting from head trauma, medical illness, intoxication, dementia, psychiatric illness or other causes.
4. No evidence of impaired judgment from alcohol or drug influence.
5. No language communication barriers (reliable translation available. e.g., on scene interpreter, language line).
6. No evidence or admission of suicidal ideation resulting in any gesture or attempt at self-harm. No verbal or written expression of suicidal ideation regardless of any apparent inability to complete a suicide.

EMS providers will make every reasonable effort to convince reluctant patients to access medical care at the emergency department via the EMS system before accepting a Refusal of Care.

Utilize the Vermont EMS Supplemental Report for Patient Non-Transport form. Any check mark in a shaded area requires on-line **Medical Direction** prior to terminating the patient encounter.

Consider on-line **Medical Direction** for all patients who present a threat to themselves, present with an altered level of consciousness or diminished mental capacity, or have history or examination findings consistent with a high-risk refusal.

Medical Direction is to be provided all relevant information and may need to speak directly with the patient by radio or preferably a recorded landline.



Policy Continues 

← Policy Continued

If Medical Direction advises that the patient needs to be transported to the Emergency Department but you are unable to do so, document circumstances carefully in your chart and communicate with Medical Direction.



If based on a complete patient assessment, the patient does not have the capacity to refuse care and is in need of medical treatment or protective custody and refuses care, contact law enforcement for assistance.

Examples of high-risk refusals include but are not limited to:

1. Treated / resolved hypoglycemia.
2. Patient with obvious head trauma and taking anticoagulant medications.
3. Intoxicated patients.
4. Abnormal vital signs.
5. Treated / resolved narcotic overdose.
6. High risk mechanism of injuries, see [Advanced Spinal Assessment Procedure 6.0](#).
7. Patient / witness reports suicidal ideations.
8. Possible apparent life-threatening event, see [Brief Resolved Unexplained Event \(BRUE\) Protocol 2.6](#).

PROCEDURE

1. Clearly offer the patient both treatment and transportation to the hospital and document the offer in your Patient Care Report (SIREN). **All** non-transport after patient contact require documentation in SIREN.
2. Perform an assessment of the patient's mental capacity and, to the extent permitted by the patient, a physical exam including vital signs. Your assessment, or the patient's refusal of care, must be fully documented in your Patient Care Report
3. Explain to the patient the nature and severity of his/her illness or injury, the treatments being proposed, the risks and consequences of accepting or refusing treatment, and the potential alternatives. Fully document the explanation given to the patient in your Patient Care Report.
4. A parent or legal guardian may refuse care for a minor or:
 - When a parent or legal guardian is not reasonably available, another adult family member (e.g., grandparent), or other authorized representative having custody of the minor, may refuse care.
 - EMS personnel may accept a telephonic refusal of care, provided that they have explained the consequences of refusing care; telephonic refusal of care should be carefully documented.
5. Prepare and explain the Patient Non-Transport form or the equivalent section of the SIREN run form, if available, to the patient (or, in the case of a minor patient, the patient's parent, legal guardian, or authorized representative).
6. The Patient Non-Transport form or SIREN screen should be signed by the patient (or, in the case of a minor patient, by the minor patient's parent, legal guardian, or authorized representative) at the time of the refusal. The form should also be dated and, where possible, signed by a witness, preferably a competent relative, friend, police officer, or impartial third person.
7. If on-line **Medical Direction** was consulted for a refusal of care, obtain and document the physician's name in the patient care report.
8. All patients in police custody retain the right to request transport. This should be coordinated with law enforcement.
9. If child abuse is suspected and a refusal of care situation exists, the EMT must contact police immediately, see [Abuse and Neglect Protocol 8.0](#).

Response to Domestic Violence 8.16

Domestic violence is the willful intimidation, assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior perpetrated by an intimate partner against another. It affects individuals in every community, regardless of age, economic status, race, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, or educational background. The consequences of domestic violence can cross generations and last a lifetime.

When domestic violence is suspected, the EMS provider should further assess the patient and take appropriate action in accordance with state law.

PURPOSE

To ensure that individuals affected by domestic violence are identified and provided with comprehensive medical and psychosocial interventions.

Indicators of Domestic Violence

The following are potential indicators of domestic violence. If the patient presents with one or more of these indicators, further assessment is warranted:

- The patient admits to past or present physical or emotional abuse, as a victim or witness.
- The patient denies physical abuse, but presents with unexplained bruises, whiplash injuries consistent with shaking, areas of erythema consistent with slap injuries, grab-marks on arms or neck, lacerations, burns, scars, fractures, or multiple injuries in various stages of healing, fractured mandible, or perforated tympanic membranes.
- The patient presents with injury sites suggestive of battering. Common injury sites include areas hidden by clothing or hair (e.g., face, head, chest, breasts, abdomen, and genitals).
- The extent or type of injury is inconsistent with the explanation offered by the patient.
- Pregnancy, which increases a woman's risk of domestic violence.
- The patient presents evidence of sexual assault or forced sexual actions by a partner.
- The partner (or suspected abuser) insists on staying close to the patient and may try to answer all questions directed to the patient.
- The patient is afraid of returning home or indicates concerns for safety of self, children, and/or pets.
- A substantial delay exists between the time of the injury and presentation for treatment.
- The patient describes the alleged "accident" in a hesitant, embarrassed, or evasive manner, or avoids eye contact.
- The patient has "psychosomatic" complaints such as panic attacks, anxiety, choking sensation, or depression.
- The patient has complaints of chronic pain (back or pelvic pain) with no substantiating physical evidence.
- The patient or partner has a history of psychiatric illness, alcohol, and/or drug abuse.
- The patient has a history of suicide attempts or suicidal ideation.
- Medical history reveals many "accidents" or remarks indicating that previous injuries were of suspicious origin.
- The patient has a history of self-induced abortions or multiple therapeutic abortions.
- The patient has a pattern of avoiding continuity in health care.

Responsibility of EMS Provider

- Domestic violence calls are among the most potentially dangerous to responding personnel.
- If EMS providers respond to a known domestic violence call and arrive prior to police, the providers should stage until police arrive and secure the scene.
- If EMS providers respond to an unknown call and suspect domestic violence on arrival, the providers should consider withdrawing, notifying police, and proceeding as above. Don't hesitate to return to the vehicle at any time to make decisions or notify police and/or **Medical Direction**.

Policy Continues 

8.16 Response to Domestic Violence

Policy Continued

When Cleared to Proceed

- Clearly and simply identify yourself and your role. Use non-threatening body language and approach.
- Use a team approach. Designate one provider to observe for safety and one or more to work on the patient or discreetly assess children for injuries.
- Know where your partner is.
- Be aware of the surroundings:
 - The number and location of exits.
 - The number and location of people in the residence.
 - Potential weapons and hiding places.
- Position rescuers with access to exit(s).
- Secure pets.
- Limit the number of people present (e.g., responders, neighbors, family).
- Let occupants lead down hallways or into stairwells or rooms. (Keep them in front.)
- Avoid treating a patient in a bedroom (only one exit, intimate setting, possible hidden weapons) or kitchen (many possible weapons).
- Use hard chairs rather than upholstered furniture as weapons are easily hidden among cushions.
- Attempt to separate the patient from the suspected batterer for treatment and/or questioning. If possible, move the patient to the ambulance to assess and treat, even if non-transport.
- If removing personal items from the patient for assessment purposes, place them in paper bags, if possible, to preserve evidence.
- Treat injuries according to appropriate protocol.
- Provide psychological support and offer the patient choices when possible to allow the patient to regain a sense of control.

Referrals

The Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence is the federally recognized domestic and sexual violence coalition in Vermont. Services include:

- Legal Advocacy and Support
- Hospital Support
- Financial and Personal Advocacy
- Shelters and Safe Homes
- Other Resources

Below are important resources that you should share with patients you suspect have been subjected to domestic or other forms of violence:

- Domestic Violence: **1-800-228-7395** (*Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence*)
- Sexual Violence and Rape: **1-800-489-7273** (*Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence*)
- Teen Dating Abuse: **1-866-331-9474** (*National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence*)
- Adult Protective Services: **1-800-564-1612** (*Vermont Department of Licensing and Protection*)
- Child Abuse: **1-800-649-5285** (*Vermont Department for Children and Families*)
- Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence website: <http://www.vtnetwork.org/>

Resuscitation Initiation and Termination

8.17

RESUSCITATION EFFORTS SHOULD BE WITHHELD UNDER THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES:

- **Valid Do Not Resuscitate:** Refer to [Do Not Resuscitate \(DNR\) & Clinician Orders \(COLST\) Protocol 8.9](#).
- **Scene Safety:** The physical environment is not safe for providers.
- **Dead on Arrival (DOA):** A person is presumed dead on arrival when all five “Signs of Death” are present **AND** at least one associated “Factor of Death” is present.

Signs of Death (All five signs of death must be present)

- Unresponsiveness.
- Apnea.
- Absence of palpable pulses at carotid, radial, and femoral sites.
- Unresponsive pupils.
- Absence of heart sounds.

Factors of Death (At least one associated factor of death must be present)

- Damage or destruction of the body incompatible with life, such as, but not limited to:
 - ✓ Decapitation.
 - ✓ Decomposition.
 - ✓ Deforming brain injury.
 - ✓ Incineration or extensive full thickness burns.
- Lividity/Rigor mortis of any degree.
- Major blunt or penetrating trauma.
- Body frozen solid—unable to perform chest compressions.

SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED INFANT DEATH (SUID)

- An infant <12 months who is apneic, asystolic (no heartbeat or umbilical cord pulse), and exhibiting lividity and/or rigor mortis may be presumed dead.



NEONATE

- A neonate who is apneic, asystolic, and exhibits either neonatal **maceration** (softening or degeneration of the tissues after death in utero) or **anencephaly** (absence of a major portion of the brain, skull, and scalp) may be presumed dead.



Contact **Medical Direction** if gestational age is less than 22 weeks and neonate shows signs of obvious **immaturity** (translucent and gelatinous skin, lack of fingernails, fused eyelids).

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Patients with ventricular assist devices (VAD) should almost never be pronounced dead at the scene, see [Implantable Ventricular Assist Devices \(VAD\) Policy 8.11](#).

Policy Continues

Resuscitation Initiation and Termination

Policy Continued

RESUSCITATION MAY BE STOPPED UNDER THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES:

- When the patient regains pulse/respirations. See [Post Resuscitative Care Protocol – Adult 3.4A](#), [Post Resuscitative Care Protocol -- Pediatric 3.4P](#), [Cardiac Arrest Protocol -- Adult 3.2A](#) or [Cardiac Arrest Protocol – Pediatric 3.2P](#).
- The physical environment becomes unsafe for providers.
- The exhaustion of EMS providers.

TERMINATION OF RESUSCITATION (TOR) RULE (ADULTS ONLY):

- 1) Arrest not witnessed by emergency medical services personnel.
 - 2) NO return of spontaneous circulation after 20 minutes of either BLS alone or combined BLS and ALS in the absence of hypothermia.
 - 3) No shock was delivered or advised by the AED.
- If **ALL** criteria are present, contact **Medical Direction** to consider termination of resuscitation.
 - If **ANY** criteria are missing, continue resuscitation and transport, **OR** contact **Medical Direction** to consider termination of resuscitation.
 - Notify law enforcement if terminating resuscitation.



- Contact **Medical Direction** to consider Termination of Resuscitation for any of the following:
 - Arrest witnessed by EMS personnel, if patient has NO return of spontaneous circulation after 20 minutes of either BLS alone or combined BLS and ALS in the absence of hypothermia **AND** no shocks were delivered or advised; or
 - Extrication is prolonged (>20 minutes) with no resuscitation possible during extrication (hypothermia is an exception); or
 - If extenuating circumstances or questions.
- Hypothermic patients without contraindications to CPR should have continued CPR and should not be considered for TOR until the core temperature has been rewarmed to 32°C (90°F) with no ROSC. (See [Hypothermia \(Environmental\) Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 2.10.](#))
- Cardiac arrests should generally be managed on scene until return of spontaneous circulation, decision to cease resuscitation, or criteria is met for transport to hospital as indicated by Termination of Resuscitation (TOR) Rule. If transport is initiated, resuscitation must be continued until arrival at the receiving hospital.
- May continue resuscitation and transport if conditions on scene are NOT amenable to cessation of resuscitation.



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- Contact **Medical Direction** to consider Termination of Resuscitation for the non-hypothermic patient unresponsive to advanced cardiac life support with a non-shockable rhythm after 20 minutes of resuscitation and $ETCO_2 \leq 10$ mmHg.
- For narrow-complex PEA with a rate above 40 or refractory and recurrent ventricular fibrillation/ventricular tachycardia, consider continuation of resuscitation and transport.
 - May consider termination of resuscitation if > 60 minutes from time of dispatch.
 - Confirm cardiac standstill with point-of-care ultrasound, if available and trained.

Policy Continues

Policy Continued

DETERMINING DEATH IN THE FIELD

When efforts to resuscitate are not initiated or are terminated under the above provisions, EMS providers shall:

- Document time that death is pronounced.
- Notify law enforcement, who will alert Medical Examiner.
- Consider possibility of a crime scene and restrict access.
- Any decision to move the body must be made in collaboration with law enforcement and the medical examiner.
- Leave any resuscitation adjuncts such as advanced airway devices, IV/IO access devices, electrode pads, etc., in place.
- Inform family on scene of patient's death and offer to contact family, friends, clergy, or other support systems.

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The above requirements apply to situations in which law enforcement or the medical examiner may take jurisdiction. Law enforcement and the medical examiner are not required to take jurisdiction of hospice or other patients who are known to have been terminally ill from natural causes or congenital anomaly, and death was imminent and expected. Where law enforcement is not involved, EMS providers may provide appropriate assistance to families or other caregivers.

MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT (MCI)

- See [Mass/Multiple Casualty Triage Protocol 9.1](#).

DOCUMENTATION

- Complete a patient care record (SIREN) in all cases. If available, include ECG rhythm strips and code summary with the patient care report.
- Document special orders including DNR, on-line Medical Direction, etc.
- MCI conditions may require a triage tag in addition to an abbreviated PCR.
- Record any special circumstances or events that might impact patient care or forensic issues.



- Prolonging resuscitation efforts, beyond 20 minutes, without a return of spontaneous circulation is usually futile, unless cardiac arrest is compounded by hypothermia or submersion in cold water.
- EMS providers are not required to transport every victim of cardiac arrest to a hospital. Unless special circumstances are present, it is expected that most resuscitations will be performed on-scene until the return of spontaneous circulation or a decision to cease resuscitation efforts is made based on the criteria listed. Transportation with continuing CPR is justified if hypothermia is present or suspected. Current AHA guidelines state: "cessation of efforts in the out-of-hospital setting...should be standard practice."
- An ETCO₂ level of 10 mmHg or less measured 20 minutes after the initiation of advanced cardiac life support accurately predicts death in patients with cardiac arrest.

8.18

Trauma Triage and Transport Decision

Policy 8.18

Measure Vital Signs and Level of Consciousness

Glasgow Coma Scale	≤13	-YES→
Systolic Blood Pressure	<90 mmHg	
Respiratory Rate	<10 or >29 breaths per minute or need for ventilatory support (<20 in infants aged <1 year)	

Assess Anatomy of Injury

- All penetrating injuries to head, neck, torso, and extremities proximal to elbow or knee
- Chest wall instability or deformity (e.g. flail chest)
- Two or more proximal long-bone fractures
- Crushed, degloved, mangled, or pulseless extremity
- Amputation proximal to wrist or ankle
- Pelvic fractures
- Open or depressed skull fracture
- Paralysis

Assess Mechanism of Injury and Evidence of High-Energy impact

- Falls
 - Adult: >20 feet (1 story is equal to 10 feet)
 - Pediatric: >10 feet or 2 to 3 times the height of the child.
- High-risk auto crash
 - Intrusion, including roof: >12 inches occupant side; >18 inches any side
 - Ejection (partial or complete) from automobile
 - Death in same passenger compartment
 - Vehicle telemetry data consistent with a high risk of injury
- Auto vs. pedestrian/bicyclist: thrown, run over, or with significant (>20 mph) impact
- Motorcycle crash >20 mph
- Recreational vehicle (ATV) collision

Assess Special Patient or System Considerations

- Older Adults
 - Risk of injury/death increases after age 55 years
 - SBP <110 may represent shock after age 65
 - Low impact mechanisms (e.g. ground level falls) may result in severe injury
- Pediatric
 - Should be triaged preferentially to pediatric capable trauma centers
- Anticoagulants and bleeding disorders
 - Patients with head injury are at high risk for rapid deterioration
- Burns
 - Without other trauma mechanism: triage to burn facility
 - With trauma mechanism: triage to trauma center
- Pregnancy >20 weeks
- EMS Provider judgment

Transport to closest hospital

- If feasible, and transport time ≤ 50 minutes, consider transport directly to closest Level 1 Trauma Center (UVMMC, DHMC, AMC) by ground or air and notify receiving hospital of a "TRAUMA ALERT."
- If above is not feasible OR transport time > 50 minutes OR patient requires immediate airway or other stabilization not possible in field, transport to closest Emergency Department for initial management and then transfer to Level 1 Trauma Center. Notify receiving hospital of a "TRAUMA ALERT."

- Transport to the closest appropriate facility.
- Consider contacting **Medical Direction** about destination determination.
- Provide early patient notification
- Consider "TRAUMA ALERT".

- Transport to the closest appropriate facility.
- Consider contacting **Medical Direction** about destination determination.
- Provide early patient notification including presence of high risk factors.

PURPOSE

The goal of the hazardous materials exposure protocol is to prepare the EMS provider for the potential risks that may be encountered and to provide guidelines to mitigate the effects of a hazardous exposure incident. The EMS provider may reference additional protocols for the management of specific hazardous materials exposure in dealing with known chemicals.

Successful management of a hazardous materials exposure depends on effective coordination between EMS, local hazardous materials teams, fire and police departments, the Poison Control Center, and appropriate state and federal agencies.

IDENTIFICATION

- Identification of the exposed material should be made at the earliest convenient time possible.
- Proper chemical name and spelling will be necessary for identification of procedures for Poison Control (1-800-222-1222) and receiving hospitals. Consider contacting Poison Control as soon as practical for consultation.
- Utilization of shipping papers, waybills, and Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) may assist in identifying chemical hazards, safety precautions, personal protective equipment, and treatments.

Note: Many household chemicals may not require activation of a hazardous materials team. Utilize manufacturer's recommendation for decontamination and treatment, or contact Poison Control for treatment and decontamination procedures.

PERSONAL SAFETY

- Personal protection is the highest priority when responding to an incident where hazardous material exposure is suspected. **DO NOT ENTER THE HOT ZONE.** Only HazMat Teams should enter the hot zone.
- If there is a major hazardous materials release:
 - Request specific staging information and be alert for clusters of injured patients.
 - Maintain safe location upwind and uphill of the site (at least 300 ft.).
 - Observe strict adherence to hot, warm, and cold-zone areas for personal safety, decontamination, and treatment.
 - Activate the Vermont Hazardous Materials Response Team HAZMAT Hotline at 800-641-5005 or through 911.

PATIENT DECONTAMINATION

Only properly trained and protected personnel should conduct patient decontamination. The decontamination system is established by the appropriately trained fire department/HazMat Team. EMS personnel will work cooperatively with them during the decontamination process. Patient decontamination is necessary to minimize injury due to exposure, as well as to mitigate risk of secondary exposure.

MASS/GROSS DECONTAMINATION

- Mass Decontamination (Large-scale Multiple/Mass Casualty) involves the effective dilution of a chemical or hazardous substance utilizing large quantities of water. This process should be supervised by the appropriately trained local fire department or HazMat Team.
- This process is necessary due to the involvement of an overwhelming number of patients, the severity of symptoms, and where technical or fine decontamination cannot be utilized due to time and personnel.

Protocol Continues 

9.0 Hazardous Materials Exposure

Protocol Continued

TECHNICAL DECONTAMINATION

- Technical Decontamination involves a multi-step process, supervised by the appropriately trained fire department or HazMat Team.
- This decontamination process is dependent on the type of chemical hazard present, and may require different methods such as:
 - Dilution.
 - Absorption.
 - Neutralization.
 - Chemical degradation.
 - Solidification.

Each method of decontamination has specific uses. Ascertain from the HazMat Team which method was used, if there are any hazards associated with the decontamination process, and if further definitive decontamination is required at the hospital.

DEFINITIVE/FINE DECONTAMINATION

Usually completed at the hospital, it involves additional washing and rinsing to further dilute and finally remove any contaminants. Definitive decontamination should be performed in an authorized decontamination facility and with appropriately trained personnel.

DECONTAMINATION OF SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Children and their families, the elderly/frail, and patients with medical appliances will require more EMS personnel and time for general assistance and may also require simultaneous basic life support assistance during decontamination. An individual patient requiring special needs decontamination may take 10 – 15 minutes to complete.



Although the principles of decontamination are the same, certain precautions may need to be taken, depending on the patient.

- These patients may have the inability to give history or describe symptoms and physical complaints.
- Typical stress response of children is to be highly anxious and inconsolable, making assessment difficult.
- Small children are more difficult to handle while wearing personal protection equipment (PPE).
- Attempt to keep children with their families, as the decontamination process is likely to be frightening and children may resist.
- Keep patients with existing medical conditions together with their caregivers, if feasible.
- Children and elderly, and possibly special needs patients, are inherently unable to maintain body temperature and quickly become hypothermic. Utilize water warmed to 100°F, if available, keep warm after drying procedure.
- Use low-pressure water and soft washcloths and protect the airway and eyes throughout the decontamination process.

Protocol Continues

Protocol Continued

TREATMENT DURING DECONTAMINATION

- If medication is required, limit administration route to intramuscular or medi-inhaler.
- Intravenous therapy and advanced airway interventions should be delayed until after gross decontamination.
- Specific individual treatment should be referenced from Poison Control or MSDS sheets.

DOCUMENT EXPOSURE AND TREATMENT INFORMATION

- Name of chemical(s).
- Amount, time, and route of exposure.
- Decontamination information.
- Treatment/antidotes administered.

TRANSPORT

- EMS personnel transporting potentially contaminated patients (e.g., patients who have received gross decontamination) must have appropriate PPE.
- If an ambulance has transported a contaminated patient, it can only be used to transport similarly contaminated patients until proper decontamination of the vehicle is complete.
- Contaminated patients will not be transported by helicopter.
- Lining of the interior of the ambulance and further use of PPE may be necessary, dependent upon the level of completed decontamination.
- Communication of chemical exposure should be transmitted to the receiving hospital at the earliest possible time. Transmitted information should include such information as covered under the documentation and treatment section.



9.1 MASS/MULTIPLE CASUALTY TRIAGE

PURPOSE

- The goal of the mass/multiple Casualty Triage protocol is to prepare for a unified, coordinated, and immediate EMS mutual aid response by prehospital and hospital agencies to effectively expedite the emergency management of the victims of any type of Mass Casualty Incident (MCI).
- Successful management of any MCI depends upon the effective cooperation, organization, and planning among health care professionals, hospital administrators and out-of-hospital EMS agencies, state and local government representatives, and individuals and/or organizations associated with disaster-related support agencies.
- Adoption of Model Uniform Core Criteria (MUCC).

DEFINITIONS

Multiple Casualty Situations

- The number of patients and the severity of the injuries do not exceed the ability of the provider to render care. Patients with life-threatening injuries are treated first.

Mass Casualty Incidents

- The number of patients and the severity of the injuries exceed the capability of the provider, and patients sustaining major injuries who have the greatest chance of survival with the least expenditure of time, equipment, supplies, and personnel are managed first.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Initial assessment to include the following:

- Location of incident.
- Type of incident.
- Any hazards.
- Approximate number of victims.
- Type of assistance required.

COMMUNICATION

- Within the scope of a Mass Casualty Incident, the EMS provider may, within the limits of their scope of practice, perform necessary ALS procedures, that under normal circumstances would require a direct physician's order.
- These procedures shall be the minimum necessary to prevent the loss of life or the critical deterioration of a patient's condition.
- All procedures performed under this order shall be documented thoroughly.
- See [Communications Policy 8.5](#) or [Communications Failure Policy 8.6](#).

TRIAGE

Utilize a triage system such as "SALT" (Sort, Assess, Lifesaving Interventions, Treatment/Transport) to prioritize patients. SALT is part of a CDC-sponsored project based upon best evidence and designed to develop a national standard for mass casualty triage.

- Assess each patient as quickly and safely as possible.
- Conduct rapid assessment.
- Assign patients to broad categories based on need for treatment (Still, Wave, Walk).
- Remember: Triage is not treatment! Stopping to provide care to one patient will only delay care for others. Standard triage care is only to correct airway and severe bleeding problems.

Protocol Continues 

Protocol Continued

TRIAGE CATEGORIES

- Immediate: **RED** Seriously injuries, immediately life-threatening problems, high potential for survival (i.e., tension pneumothorax, exposure to nerve agent resulting in severe shortness of breath or seizures). Likely to survive given available resources. If no to any of the following: Has a peripheral pulse? Not in respiratory distress? Hemorrhage is controlled? Follows commands or makes purposeful movements?
- Delayed: **YELLOW** Serious (not minor) injuries requiring care but management can be delayed without increasing morbidity or mortality (i.e., long bone fractures, 40% BSA exposure to Mustard gas). If yes to all of the following: Has a peripheral pulse? Not in respiratory distress? Hemorrhage is controlled? Follows commands or makes purposeful movements?
- Minimal: **GREEN** Injuries require minor care or no care (i.e., abrasions, minor lacerations, nerve agent exposure with mild runny nose). If yes to all of the following: Has a peripheral pulse? Not in respiratory distress? Hemorrhage is controlled? Follows commands or makes purposeful movements?
- Expectant: **GREY** Unlikely to survive given available resources. Does not mean Dead. Method of preserving resources: should receive comfort care or resuscitation when resources are available. Serious injuries: very poor survivability even with maximal care in hospital or pre-hospital setting (i.e., 90% body surface area burn, multiple trauma with exposed brain matter). If no to any of the following: Has a peripheral pulse? Not in respiratory distress? Hemorrhage is controlled? Follows commands or makes purposeful movements?
- Dead: **BLACK** Patient is not breathing after opening airway. (In children, if after giving 2 rescue breaths, if appropriate.) Deceased or casualties whose injuries are so severe that their chance of survival does not justify expenditure of limited resources. Tag patients to prevent re-triage. Do not move bodies unless they are hindering efforts to rescue live patients, or they are in danger of being further damaged, for example, burned by fire, building collapse, etc.

TAGGING SYSTEM

- Use water-repellent triage tags with waterproof markers and attach to the patient.
- Indicate patient's triage priority, degree of decontamination performed, treatment and medications received.

TRIAGE IN HAZARDOUS MATERIAL INCIDENTS

Decontamination

The need for decontamination is the "first triage decision." since decontamination can be a lengthy process, the "second decision" is which patient(s) are the first to be decontaminated. The "third decision" is based on need for treatment during the decontamination process, since only simple procedures such as antidote administration can be accomplished while wearing PPE.

Identification and Treatment

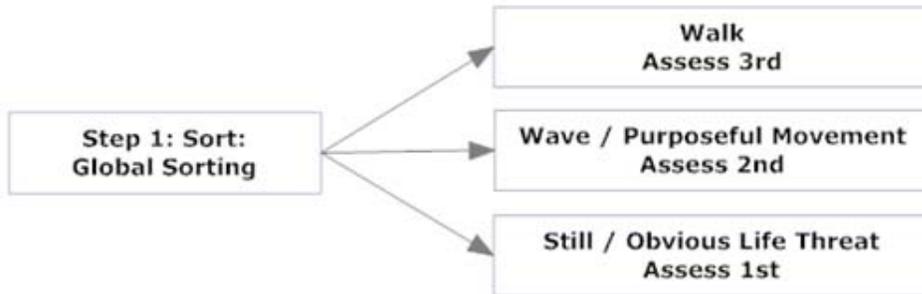
- Signs and symptoms of exposure will usually dictate the treatment required, however, at the earliest possible time, identification of the specific chemical should be made.
- Reference additional hazardous materials protocols as necessary.
- Request additional resources. Initial antidote and medical supplies may be limited to priority patients.
- Respiratory compromise is a leading factor of fatalities due to hazardous material exposure. Symptoms of chemical exposure may be delayed and occur suddenly. Constant reevaluation of respiratory status is necessary.

Protocol Continues

9.1 MASS/MULTIPLE CASUALTY TRIAGE

Protocol Continues

SALT Mass Casualty Triage



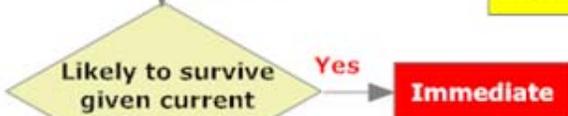
Step 2 - Assess: Individual Assessment

Lifesaving Interventions:

- Control major hemorrhage
- Open airway (if child consider 2 rescue breaths)
- Chest decompression
- Auto injector antidotes



- Obeys commands or makes purposeful movements?
- Has peripheral pulse?
- Not in respiratory distress?
- Major hemorrhage is controlled?



Hazmat & MCI 9.1

Radiation Injuries Adult & Pediatric

9.2

EMT/ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

E/A

- Remove the patient from scene and decontaminate by appropriately trained personnel.
- If triage is required for a mass casualty event, use the following guidelines:
 - If vomiting starts:
 - Within 1 hour of exposure, survival is unlikely and patient should be tagged “Expectant.”
 - Less than 4 hours after exposure, patient needs immediate decontamination and evaluation and should be tagged “Immediate.”
 - 4 hours after exposure, reevaluation can be delayed 24 – 72 hours if no other injury is present and patient should be tagged “Minimal”.
- Routine Patient Care.
- Treat traumatic injuries and underlying medical conditions.
- Patients with residual contamination risk from wounds, shrapnel, or internal contamination should be wrapped in water repellent dressings to reduce cross contamination.
- Consider Air Medical Transport after proven definitive decontamination of patient.

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- Consider anti-emetic. See [Nausea/Vomiting Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 2.11](#).
- Consider pain management. See [Pain Management Protocol – Adult 2.17A](#) or [Pain Management Protocol – Pediatric 2.17P](#).

Hazmat & MCI 9.2

PEARLS:

- In general, trauma patients who have been exposed to or contaminated by radiation should be triaged and treated on the basis of the severity of their conventional injuries.
- A patient who is contaminated with radioactive material (e.g. flecks of radioactive material embedded in their clothing and skin) generally poses a minimal exposure risk to medical personnel.

Vermont Adult Medication Reference

This document is to serve as a reference for the 2018 Vermont Statewide Protocols.

See the Pediatric Color Coded Appendix for pediatric dosages

Medication	Adult Protocol/Dosing
<p><u>Acetaminophen</u> (Tylenol)</p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicated for fever control. Avoid in patients with severe liver disease. Impairment or sensitivity to acetaminophen. Do not use with other drug products containing acetaminophen or if patient has taken any drug containing acetaminophen within 4 hours. 	<p>Pain Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 325 – 1000 PO, no repeat. 1000 mg IV
<p><u>Activated Charcoal</u></p> <p><u>Indications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poisoning/Overdose. 	<p>Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25 – 50 grams PO if advised by Medical Direction.
<p><u>Adenosine</u> (Adenocard)</p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specifically for treatment or diagnosis of Supraventricular Tachycardia. Consider for regular or wide complex tachycardia. Contraindicated in patients with WPW (Wolff-Parkinson-White) Syndrome. 	<p>Tachycardia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 mg rapid IV/IO push, followed by rapid flush. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May repeat 12 mg if no conversion. May repeat successful dose if dysrhythmia recurs after conversion.

Vermont Adult Medication Reference

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Medication	Adult Protocol/Dosing
<p><u>Albuterol</u></p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nebulized treatment for use in respiratory distress with bronchospasm. • Hyperkalemia. 	<p>Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.5 mg via nebulizer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May repeat every 5 minutes for continued symptoms. • 0.5 mg ipratropium and 2.5 mg albuterol (DuoNeb) via nebulizer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May repeat every 5 minutes (maximum 3 doses). ▪ Contact Medical Direction for additional dosing. <p>Asthma/COPD/RAD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 puffs per dose of MDI (albuterol or combination albuterol/ipratropium bromide). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May repeat every 5 minutes (maximum 3 doses). ▪ Contact Medical Direction for additional dosing. • 2.5 mg albuterol and 0.5 mg ipratropium bromide (DuoNeb) via nebulizer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May repeat every 5 minutes (maximum 3 doses). • 2.5 mg albuterol via nebulizer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May repeat every 5 minutes for continued symptoms.
<p><u>Amiodarone</u> (Cordarone)</p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antiarrhythmic used mainly in wide complex tachycardia and ventricular fibrillation. • Avoid in patients with heart block or profound bradycardia. • Contraindicated in patients with iodine hypersensitivity. • Contraindicated in patients with WPW (Wolff-Parkinson-White) Syndrome. 	<p>Cardiac Arrest V-Fib/Pulseless V-Tach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 300 mg IV/IO push (preferred first-line agent) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Repeat dose of 150 mg IV/IO push as needed. <p>Post Resuscitative Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infusion 1 mg/min IV/IO (if patient is having frequent PVCs or runs of VT, or if transport time exceeds 30 minutes). <p>Tachycardia Wide complex tachycardia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 150 mg IV/IO mixed with 100 mL D₅W or 0.9% NaCl over 10 min. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May repeat once in 10 minutes. ▪ If successful, consider maintenance infusion of 1 mg/min IV/IO.

Vermont Adult Medication Reference

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<p><u>Aspirin</u></p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An antiplatelet drug for use in cardiac chest pain. • Contraindicated if history of anaphylaxis to aspirin or NSAIDs • Contraindicated if active GI bleeding 	<p>Acute Coronary Syndrome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 324 mg PO. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If patient has taken a partial dose (81 mg), administer remaining 243 mg.
<p><u>Atropine</u></p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticholinergic drug used in bradycardias and organophosphate poisonings. 	<p>Bradycardia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5 mg IV/IO every 3 – 5 minutes up to total of 3 mg. <p>Nerve Agent/Organophosphate Poisoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 mg IV/IO; repeat every 5 minutes until excess secretions cease (stop).
<p><u>Atropine and Pralidoxime Auto-Injector (DuoDote or MARK I) Nerve Agent Kit</u></p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antidote for Nerve Agents or Organophosphate Overdose. 	<p>Nerve Agent/Organophosphate Poisoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Nerve Agents Organophosphate Poisoning Protocol – Adult 2.12A for symptom assessment and dosing guidelines.

Vermont Adult Medication Reference

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See the Pediatric Color Coded Appendix for pediatric dosages

<p><u>Calcium Chloride</u> <u>10% solution</u></p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicated for calcium channel blocker overdose, hyperkalemia, or beta blocker overdose. Do not routinely use in cardiac arrest. 	<p>Bradycardia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500 – 1,000 mg (5 – 10 mL of a 10% solution) IV/IO over 10 minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid use if pt is taking digoxin. May repeat as needed. Contact Medical Direction. Do not exceed 1 mL per minute. Flush with 0.9% NaCl before and after administration. Do not mix with or infuse immediately before or after sodium bicarbonate. <p>Cardiac Arrest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500 to 1,000 mg (5 to 10 mL of a 10% solution) slow IV/IO push for known or suspected hyperkalemic (dialysis patient/renal failure) or an antidote for toxic effects (hypotension and arrhythmias) from calcium channel blocker or beta blocker overdose. Do not mix with or infuse immediately before or after sodium bicarbonate. Do not use routinely in cardiac arrest. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May repeat as needed. Contact Medical Direction. <p>Rhabdomyolysis/Crush Injury</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500 – 1000 mg (5 – 10 mL of a 10% solution) IV/IO over 10 minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May repeat as needed. Contact Medical Direction. Do not mix with or infuse immediately before or after sodium bicarbonate.
<p><u>Dexamethasone</u></p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steroid used to control inflammatory conditions, asthma, croup, allergic reactions or adrenal insufficiency 	<p>Adrenal Insufficiency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 mg IV/IO/IM. <p>Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.6 mg/kg IV/IO/IM/PO, maximum dose 10 mg. <p>Asthma/COPD/RAD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 mg IV/IO/IM/PO.
<p><u>Dextrose 5%, 10%, 50%</u> <u>Glucose solutions</u></p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symptomatic hypoglycemia. Use in medication infusion medium. 	<p>Diabetic Emergencies (Hypoglycemia)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dextrose 10% (preferred) or 50% IV up to 25 grams. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recheck blood glucose after 5 minutes. Repeat up to 25 grams dextrose 10% or 50% if glucose levels < 60 mg/dl with continued altered mental status. 25 grams = 250 mL of 10% solution. 1 amp (25 grams) = 50 mL of 50% solution. D₅W medication infusion medium.

Vermont Adult Medication Reference

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See the Pediatric Color Coded Appendix for pediatric dosages

<p><u>Diazepam</u> (Valium)</p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seizure control. • Sedation. • Anxiolytic. 	<p>Bradycardia: Procedural Sedation for Cardiac Pacing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 mg IV/IO, may repeat once in 5 minutes. <p>Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP): Anxiolytic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 mg IV (may repeat once in 5 minutes). <p>Hyperthermia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 mg IV, may repeat once in 5 minutes. <p>Nerve Agent/Organophosphate Poisoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 mg IV every 5 minutes OR • 10 mg IM OR • Diazepam auto-injector (10mg). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Repeat 10 minutes as needed <p>Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 mg IV, may repeat once in 5 minutes <p>Restraints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.5 mg IV, may repeat once in 5 minutes <p>Seizure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May assist with patient's own diazepam gel as prescribed. • 5 – 10 mg IV (then 2.5 mg every 5 minutes to a total of 20 mg). <p>Tachycardia: For Cardioversion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 mg IV/IO, may repeat once in 5 minutes. <p>Traumatic Brain Injury</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 mg IV/IO, may repeat once in 5 minutes.
<p><u>Diltiazem</u> (Cardizem)</p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calcium channel blocker used to treat narrow complex SVT. • Contraindicated in patients with heart block, ventricular tachycardia, WPW, and/or acute MI. • Contraindicated in patients with WPW (Wolff-Parkinson-White) Syndrome. 	<p>Tachycardia</p> <p>Narrow Complex Tachycardia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.25 mg/kg IV/IO (maximum dose 20 mg) over 2 minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consider 10 mg maximum dose for elderly patient or patient with low BP. ▪ May repeat dose in 15 minutes at 0.35 mg/kg (maximum dose 25 mg) if necessary. ▪ Consider maintenance infusion 5 – 15 mg/hour IV/IO.

Vermont Adult Medication Reference

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See the Pediatric Color Coded Appendix for pediatric dosages

<p><u>Diphenhydramine (Benadryl)</u></p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antihistamine used as an adjunctive treatment in allergic reactions. • Antidote for dystonic reaction. 	<p>Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 – 50 mg IV/IM/IO to treat pruritus. • 25 – 50 mg by mouth – extended care protocol. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May repeat every 4-6 hours as needed; maximum dose of 300 mg/24 hours. <p>Restraints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For acute dystonic reaction to haloperidol 25-50 mg IV OR 50 mg IV/IM. <p>Nausea/Vomiting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 – 50 mg IV/IM for dystonic reaction. • 25 mg PO/chewed – extended care for motion sickness. <p>Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 – 50 mg IV/IM.
<p><u>Epinephrine 1:1,000 (1 mg/mL)</u></p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bronchodilation in Asthma and COPD exacerbation. Primary treatment for anaphylaxis. • Vasopressor used for bradycardia, post-resuscitative care, shock, anaphylaxis. <p><u>MIXING INSTRUCTIONS FOR EPINEPHRINE INFUSIONS</u></p> <p>Epinephrine 1:1,000 (1mg/mL) multidose vial (30mL) and withdraw 4 mg (4mL) and add to a 250 mL infusion bag of D5W or 0.9% NaCl. The resulting concentration is 16 mcg/mL</p>	<p>Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.3 mg IM by autoinjector OR 0.3 mg (0.3 mL) IM. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For additional dosing, contact Medical Direction (EMT). • 0.3 mg IM by autoinjector OR 0.3 mg (0.3 mL) IM. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May repeat every 5 – 15 minutes. ▪ Maximum of 3 doses. ▪ For additional dosing, contact Medical Direction. • For anaphylaxis refractory to IM epinephrine, consider epinephrine infusion 2 – 10 mcg/min IV/IO, titrated to effect. (Infusion pump required.) <p>Asthma/COPD/RAD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider 0.3 mg IM by autoinjector (preferred) OR epinephrine (1:1,000) (1 mg/mL) 0.3 mg (0.3 mL) IM. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For additional dosing, contact Medical Direction. <p>Bradycardia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infusion 2 – 10 mcg/min IV/IO, titrated to effect. (Infusion pump required.) <p>Post-Resuscitative Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infusion 2-10 mcg/min IV/IO titrated to effect. (Infusion pump required.) • Push dose (10 mcg/mL) for short transport times or as bridge to infusion. Administer 0.5 – 2 mL IV/IO every 2 – 5 minutes (5 – 20 mcg). <p>Septic Shock</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infusion 2 – 10 mcg/min IV/IO titrated to effect. (Infusion pump required.) • Push dose (10 mcg/mL) for short transport times or as bridge to infusion. Administer 0.5 – 2 mL IV/IO every 2 – 5 minutes (5 – 20 mcg). <p>Shock (Cardiogenic)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infusion 2-10 mcg/min IV/IO titrated to effect. (Infusion pump required.) • Push dose (10 mcg/mL) for short transport times or as bridge to infusion. Administer 0.5 – 2 mL IV/IO every 2 – 5 minutes (5 – 20 mcg). <p>Smoke Inhalation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 mg (mL) in 3 mL 0.9% NaCl via nebulizer for symptomatic patients.

Vermont Adult Medication Reference

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<p><u>Epinephrine 1:10,000</u> <u>(0.1 mg/mL)</u></p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vasopressor used in cardiac arrest. 	<p>Cardiac Arrest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 mg IV/IO. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeat every 3 – 5 minutes. <p>Hypothermia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 mg IV/IO up to 3 doses, and defibrillation as indicated.
<p><u>Etomidate</u> <u>(Amidate)</u></p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sedative used in Rapid Sequence Intubation. 	<p>Rapid Sequence Intubation {Sedate then} Paralyze</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.3 mg/kg IV/IO (maximum 40 mg).
<p><u>Fentanyl</u> <u>(Sublimaze)</u></p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narcotic analgesic Avoid use if BP < 100 mmHg. 	<p>Acute Coronary Syndrome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25 – 50 mcg slow IV push. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeat every 5 minutes up to 300 mcg and systolic BP remains ≥100 mmHg. <p>Bradycardia: Analgesia for Cardiac Pacing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25 – 50 mcg slow IV push. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May repeat every 5 minutes to a total of 300 mcg and systolic BP remains ≥100 mmHg. <p>Pain Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25 – 100 mcg slow IV, every 2 – 5 minutes to a total of 300 mcg titrated to pain relief. 50 – 100 mcg IM/IN, every 5 minutes to a total of 300 mcg titrated to pain relief. <p>Rapid Sequence Intubation: Post Intubation Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fentanyl 50 – 100 mcg slow IV/IO push, may repeat every 15 minutes as needed for anesthesia (maximum 300 mcg). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact Medical Direction for additional dosing. <p>Nasotracheal and Orotracheal Intubation: Post Intubation Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fentanyl 50 – 100 mcg slow IV/IO push, may repeat every 15 minutes as needed for anesthesia (maximum 300 mcg). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact Medical Direction for additional dosing.
<p><u>Glucagon</u></p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Converts glycogen to glucose in the liver to increase blood sugar Use in patients with no IV access Indicated for beta blocker or calcium channel blocker overdose 	<p>Bradycardia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 – 5 mg IV/IO over 3 – 5 minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May repeat up to 10 mg. If effective, place on infusion 1 – 5 mg/hr IV/IO via pump. <p>Diabetic Emergencies (Hypoglycemia)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 mg IV/IM. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recheck glucose 15 minutes after administration of glucagon. May repeat glucagon 1 mg IV/IM if glucose level is <60 mg/dl with continued altered mental status.

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<p><u>Glucose Oral</u> <u>Glucose Solutions</u></p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use in conscious hypoglycemic states. 	<p>Diabetic Emergencies (Hypoglycemia)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer 1 – 2 tubes commercially prepared glucose gel or 15 to 30 mL (1 – 2 tablespoons) of Pure VT Maple Syrup or equivalent, for a standard dose of 15 to 30 grams sugar.
<p><u>Haloperidol</u> (Haldol)</p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medication to assist with sedation of agitated patients. • Chemical restraint. • Caution: May lower seizure threshold. 	<p>Restraints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 mg IM, may repeat once in 5 minutes, maximum total dose 10 mg and administer benzodiazepine and haloperidol in one syringe.
<p><u>Heparin</u></p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STEMI and no affirmative finding from fibrinolytic questionnaire. • Contraindication - history of Heparin Induced Thrombocytopenia 	<p>Paramedic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of already established heparin drip.
<p><u>Hydrocortisone</u> (Solu-Cortef)</p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steroid used for adrenal insufficiency and associated distributive shock. 	<p>Adrenal Insufficiency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 mg IV/IO/IM (preferred steroid for use in adrenal insufficiency). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May be repeated every 6 hours. <p>Shock</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 mg IV/IO/IM.
<p><u>Hydroxocobalamin</u> (Cyanokit)</p>	<p>Smoke Inhalation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydroxocobalamin via use of Cyanokit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reconstitute: Place the vial of hydroxocobalamin in an upright position; add 0.9% NaCl to the vial (200 mL for 5 grams vial or 100 mL for 2.5 grams vial) using the transfer spike. Fill to the line. ▪ Rock vial for at least 60 seconds (do not shake). ▪ Using vented intravenous tubing, administer IV over 15 minutes. ▪ Depending on clinical response, a second dose may be required.

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<p><u>Ipratropium Bromide (Atrovent)</u></p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticholinergic bronchodilator. Blocks the muscarinic receptors of acetylcholine. • Relief of bronchospasm in patients with reversible obstructive airway disease and bronchospasm. 	<p>Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5 mg ipratropium and 2.5 mg albuterol (DuoNeb) via nebulizer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May repeat every 5 minutes (maximum 3 doses). ▪ Contact Medical Direction for additional dosing. <p>Asthma/COPD/RAD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 puffs per dose of MDI combination of albuterol/ipratropium bromide. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May repeat every 5 minutes (maximum 3 doses). OR • 0.5 mg ipratropium and 2.5 mg albuterol (DuoNeb). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May repeat albuterol 2.5 mg every 5 minutes (maximum 3 doses).
<p><u>Ketamine</u></p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sedative used in Rapid Sequence Intubation. • Pain control. • Chemical restraint • Contraindicated in patients unable to tolerate hyperdynamic states such as those with known or suspected aortic dissection, myocardial infarction, and aortic aneurysm, and those that cannot tolerate hypertension. • Avoid in patients with known schizophrenia. 	<p>Pain Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.25 mg/kg IV infusion (in 100 mL bag 0.9% NaCl over 15 minutes). • Consider lower 0.15 mg/kg dose for frail or elderly patients <p>Rapid Sequence Intubation {Sedate then} Paralyze</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 mg/kg IV/IO <p>Restraints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 mg/kg IM injection only. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use 100 mg/mL concentration; maximum dose 500 mg.) ▪ Repeat 100 mg IM dose in 5 – 10 minutes for continued sedation. ▪ Additional training and credentialing is required for use of ketamine. <p>Traumatic Brain Injury</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 mg/kg (maximum dose 500 mg) IM injection only <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contact Medical Direction for additional dosing.
<p><u>Ketorolac (Toradol)</u></p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug used for pain control. • Consider as first line in renal colic. • Avoid Ketorolac in patients with NSAID allergy, aspirin-sensitive asthma, renal insufficiency, pregnancy, or known peptic ulcer disease. • Avoid NSAIDS in women who are pregnant or could be pregnant. • Avoid in patients currently taking anticoagulants such as coumadin. 	<p>Pain Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 mg IV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contact Medical Direction • 30 mg IM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contact Medical Direction

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Lidocaine

Indications/Contraindications:

- Antiarrhythmic used for control of ventricular dysrhythmias.
- Used prior to intubation of patients with suspected increased intracranial pressure (e.g., TBI, ICH) to reduce increases in intracranial pressure
- Anesthetic for nasotracheal intubation and intraosseous.

Cardiac Arrest

V-Fib/Pulseless V-Tach

- 1 to 1.5 mg/kg IV/IO.
 - Repeat dose 0.50 - 0.75 mg/kg up to a maximum dose of 3 mg/kg.

Post-Resuscitative Care

- Maintenance infusion 1 – 4 mg/min IV/IO (30 – 50 mcg/kg/min) if patient is having frequent PVCs or runs of VT, or if transport time exceeds 30 minutes. Can dilute in D5W or NS.

Tachycardia

- 1 mg/kg IV/IO.
 - May repeat every 5 minutes (total of 3 doses) to maximum of 3 mg/kg.
 - If successful, consider a maintenance infusion of 1 – 4 mg/min IV/IO.

Traumatic Brain Injury

- 1.5 mg/kg IV/IO approximately 3 minutes prior to intubation.

Nasotracheal Intubation

- 2% lidocaine jelly.

Rapid Sequence Intubation

- 1.5 mg/kg IV/IO.

Intraosseous Access

- Slowly administer 20 – 50 mg (1 – 2.5 mL) 2% lidocaine through IO device catheter.
 - Allow 2 – 5 min for anesthetic effects, if possible.

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Lorazepam (Ativan)

Indications/Contraindications:

- Seizure control.
- Sedation.
- Anxiolytic.

Bradycardia: Procedural Sedation for Cardiac Pacing

- 1 mg IV/IO, may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR**
- 2 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes.

Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP): Anxiolytic

- 0.5 - 1 mg IV; may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR**
- 1 – 2 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes.

Hyperthermia

- 1 mg IV, may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR**
- 2 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes.

Nasotracheal and Orotracheal Intubation: Post Intubation Care

- Lorazepam 1 – 2 mg IV/IO every 15 minutes as needed for sedation (maximum 10 mg).
 - Contact **Medical Direction** for additional dosing.

Nerve Agent/Orophosphate Poisoning

- 1 mg IV, may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR**
- 2 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes.

Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose

- 1 mg IV, may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR**
- 2 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes.

Rapid Sequence Intubation: Post Intubation Care

- Lorazepam 1 – 2 mg IV/IO every 15 minutes as needed for sedation (maximum 10 mg).
 - Contact **Medical Direction** for additional dosing.

Restraints

- 1 mg IV, may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR**
- 2 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes.

Seizure

- 1 - 2 mg IV, may repeat every 5 minutes (maximum dose 8 mg)

Tachycardia: For Cardioversion

- 1 mg IV/IO, may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR**
- 2 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes.

Traumatic Brain Injury

- 1 mg IV/IO, may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR**
- 2 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes.

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<p><u>Magnesium Sulfate</u> <u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elemental electrolyte used to treat eclampsia during the third trimester of pregnancy. • A smooth muscle relaxor used in refractory respiratory distress resistant to beta-agonists. • Torsades de Pointes. 	<p>Asthma/COPD/RAD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 grams in 50 mL D₅W or 0.9% NaCl IV/IO over 10 minutes. <p>Cardiac Arrest – Torsades de Pointes With No Pulse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 – 2 grams IV/IO over 1 – 2 minutes. <p>Obstetrical Emergencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 grams in 10 mL D5W or 0.9% NaCl given slow IV push over 5 minutes in the presence of seizure in the third trimester of pregnancy or post partum. <p>Seizures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 grams in 10 mL D5W or 0.9% NaCl given slow IV push over 5 minutes in the presence of seizure in the third trimester of pregnancy or post partum. <p>Tachycardia – Torsades de Pointes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If pulse present, consider 2 grams IV/IO diluted in 10 mL D5W or 0.9% NaCl over 10 minutes.
<p><u>Methylprednisolone (Solu-medrol)</u> <u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steroid used in respiratory distress to reverse inflammatory and allergic reactions. 	<p>Adrenal Insufficiency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 125 mg IV/IO/IM. <p>Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 mg/kg IV, maximum dose 125 mg every 6 hours. <p>Asthma/COPD/RAD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 125 mg IV/IO/IM.
<p><u>Metoclopramide (Reglan)</u> <u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-emetic used to control nausea and/or vomiting and as alternative treatment for adrenal insufficiency. 	<p>Nausea/Vomiting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 mg IV. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May repeat once after 10 minutes if nausea/vomiting persists. ▪ May repeat IM every 4 – 6 hours as needed for extended care settings.
<p><u>Metoprolol (Lopressor)</u> <u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use for rate control in narrow complex tachycardia with an irregular rhythm. • Contraindicated in patients with HR < 45 bpm, SBP < 100 mmHg, heart block or acute heart failure syndromes (CHF or cardiogenic shock). • Use with caution in patients with bronchospastic disease (asthma, COPD). • Contraindicated in patients with WPW (Wolff-Parkinson-White) Syndrome. 	<p>Tachycardia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 mg IV/IO over 2 – 5 minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May repeat every five minutes to a maximum of 15 mg as needed to achieve a ventricular rate of 90 – 100 BPM.

Vermont Adult Medication Reference

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See the Pediatric Color Coded Appendix for pediatric dosages

Midazolam (Versed)

Indications/Contraindications:

- Seizure control.
- Sedation.
- Anxiolytic.

Bradycardia: Procedural Sedation for Cardiac Pacing

- 2.5 mg IV/IO/intranasal, may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR**
- 5 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes.

Continuous Positive Pressure Airway (CPAP): Anxiolytic

- 2.5 mg IV/intranasal, may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR**
- 5 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes.

Hyperthermia

- 2.5 mg IV/intranasal, may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR**
- 5 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes.

Nasotracheal and Orotracheal Intubation: Post Intubation Care

- Midazolam 2.5 – 5 mg IV, every 5 – 10 minutes as needed for sedation (maximum 20 mg) **OR**
 - Contact **Medical Direction** for additional dosing.

Nerve Agent/Organophosphate Poisoning

- 2.5 mg IV/intranasal, may repeat every 5 minutes **OR**
- 5 mg IM, may repeat every 10 minutes.

Pain Management

- **Antidote:** For dysphoria (emergence reaction) caused by ketamine, 1 – 2 mg IV/IM every 5 minutes as needed.

Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose

- 2.5 mg IV/intranasal, may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR**
- 5 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes.

Rapid Sequence Intubation: Post-Intubation Care

- Midazolam 2.5 – 5 mg IV, every 5 – 10 minutes as needed for sedation (maximum 20 mg) **OR**
 - Contact **Medical Direction** for additional dosing.

Rapid Sequence Intubation: {Sedate then} Paralyze

- 0.2 mg/kg IV/IO (0.1mg/kg IV/IO for patients in shock).

(continued)

Vermont Adult Medication Reference

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See the Pediatric Color Coded Appendix for pediatric dosages

<p><u>Midazolam</u> (continued) (Versed)</p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seizure control. • Sedation. • Anxiolytic. 	<p>Restraints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 mg IM (preferred route if patient is combative) OR intranasal, may repeat once in 10 minutes OR • 2.5 mg IV, may repeat once in 5 minutes <p>Seizure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May assist with patient's own intranasal midazolam as prescribed. • 10 mg IM (preferred) or intranasal, may repeat every 10 minutes (maximum dose 20 mg). Note: 5 mg/mL concentration is recommended for IM/intranasal OR • 5 mg IV, may repeat every 5 minutes until seizure activity resolved (maximum dose 20 mg). <p>Tachycardia: For Cardioversion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.5 mg IV/IO/intranasal, may repeat once in 5 minutes OR • 5 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes. <p>Traumatic Brain Injury</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.5 mg IV/IO/intranasal, may repeat once in 5 minutes OR • 5 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes.
<p><u>Morphine Sulfate</u></p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narcotic analgesic • Avoid use if BP < 100 mmHg. • Associated with increased mortality. 	<p>Acute Coronary Syndrome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 – 4 mg IV/IM every 5 minutes to a maximum of 15 mg titrated to pain and systolic BP remains ≥100 mmHg. <p>Bradycardia: Analgesia for Cardiac Pacing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 – 4 mg IV every 10 minutes to a total of 15 mg and systolic BP ≥100 mmHg. <p>Pain Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 – 5 mg IV/IM every 10 minutes to a total of 20 mg titrated to pain relief and if systolic BP is > 100 mmHg.

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<p><u>Naloxone</u> (Narcan)</p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narcotic overdose. 	<p>Altered Mental Status (Unknown Etiology)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 mg (1 mL) per nostril via atomizer for a maximum of 2 mg. May repeat every 3 – 5 minutes if no response to a maximum of 12 mg. Administer a single spray of NARCAN® Nasal Spray (4mg naloxone in 0.1 mL nasal spray) into one nostril. Administer additional doses of NARCAN® Nasal Spray, using a new nasal spray with each dose, every 3 – 5 minutes if no response or if patient relapses, to a total of 12 mg. 0.4 – 2 mg IV/IO/IM/SQ/intranasal, titrated to effect. If no response, may repeat initial dose every 3 – 5 minutes to a total of 12 mg. <p>Pain Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antidote: For hypoventilation from opiate administration by EMS personnel, administer naloxone 0.4 – 2.0 mg SQ/IV/IO/IM or 2.0 – 4.0 mg intranasal as needed. <p>Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose</p> <p>Narcotic Overdose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 mg (1 mL) per nostril via atomizer for a maximum of 2 mg. May repeat every 3 – 5 minutes if no response to a maximum of 12 mg. Administer a single spray of NARCAN® Nasal Spray (4mg naloxone in 0.1 mL nasal spray) into one nostril. Administer additional doses of NARCAN® Nasal Spray, using a new nasal spray with each dose, every 3 – 5 minutes if no response or if patient relapses, to a total of 12 mg. 0.4 – 2 mg IV/IO/IM/SQ/intranasal, titrated to effect. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If no response, may repeat initial dose every 3 - 5 minutes to a total of 12 mg.
<p><u>Neo-Synephrine</u></p>	<p>Nasotracheal Intubation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-medicate nasal mucosa with a vasoconstricting nasal decongestant spray such as neo-synephrine, if available.

Vermont Adult Medication Reference

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See the Pediatric Color Coded Appendix for pediatric dosages

<p><u>Nitroglycerin</u></p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vasodilator used in the treatment of chest pain secondary to acute coronary syndrome and CHF • Infusion pump required for infusion. • Avoid in any patient who has used a phosphodiesterase inhibitor for erectile dysfunction and pulmonary hypotension, such as sildenafil (Viagra, Revatio) or vardenafil (Levitra, Staxyn) within 24 hours or tadalafil (Cialis, Adcirca) within 48 hours. • Avoid in patients receiving IV prostacyclins for pulmonary hypertension. 	<p>Acute Coronary Syndrome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate administration of patient's own nitroglycerin every 3 – 5 minutes while symptoms persist and systolic BP remains ≥ 100 mmHg, to a total of 3 doses. Contact Medical Direction for additional dosing. • 0.4 mg SL every 3 – 5 minutes while symptoms persist and if systolic BP remains ≥ 100 mmHg. • 10 mcg/min IV if symptoms persist after 3rd SL nitroglycerin (must be on a pump). • Increase IV nitroglycerin by 10 mcg/min every 5 minutes while symptoms persist and systolic remains ≥ 100 mmHg, max rate 200 mcg/min. • If IV nitroglycerin is not available, consider the application of nitroglycerin paste 1 – 2 inches transdermally. <p>Congestive Heart Failure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Medical Direction for online order to facilitate administration of the patient's own nitroglycerin, while symptoms persist and systolic BP is ≥ 140 mmHg. • Contact Medical Direction to consider nitroglycerin 0.4 mg SL every 3 – 5 minutes while symptoms persist and if systolic BP is, while symptoms persist and systolic BP is ≥ 140 mmHg. • 0.4 mg SL every 3 – 5 minutes while symptoms persist and if systolic BP is, while symptoms persist and systolic BP is ≥ 140 mmHg. • Titrate until symptomatic improvement or systolic BP of 140 mmHg: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For systolic BP of 140 – 160 mmHg: IV nitroglycerin start at 50 mcg/min. ▪ For systolic BP of 160 – 200 mmHg: IV nitroglycerin start at 100 mcg/min. ▪ For systolic BP > 200 mmHg: nitroglycerin start at 200 mcg/min. ▪ Note: It is recommended two (2) IV lines in place and the IV nitroglycerin must be on an infusion pump. Maximum dose of 400 mcg/min. • If patient improves after SL, may apply nitroglycerin paste 1" – 2" transdermally.
<p><u>Nitrous Oxide</u></p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-narcotic analgesic gas • Contraindicated in abdominal pain, pneumothorax, head injury, or diving emergency patients. • Not to be used if patient has received an opiate. • Requires Medical Direction approval and use of scavenger/ventilation fan. 	<p>Pain Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient self administers gas for pain control as needed

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<p><u>Norepinephrine</u> (Levophed)</p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apha and Beta 1 receptor adronergic receptor agonist vasopressor • Infusion pump required. 	<p>Post Resuscitation Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infusion 1 – 30 mcg/min IV/IO, titrated to effect. <p>Septic Shock</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Medical Direction and consider infusion 1 – 30 mcg/min IV/IO via pump. <p>Shock</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infusion 1 – 30 mcg/min (preferred agent).
<p><u>Ondansetron</u> (Zofran) Anti-emetic</p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-emetic used to control nausea and/or vomiting. 	<p>Nausea/Vomiting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 mg PO/ODT. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May give IV solution by oral route. • 4 mg IV/IM. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May repeat once after 10 minutes if nausea/vomiting persists.
<p><u>Oxygen</u></p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicated in any condition with increased cardiac work load, respiratory distress, or illness or injury resulting in altered ventilation and/or perfusion. Goal oxygen saturation $\geq 94\%$. • Indicated for pre-oxygenation whenever possible prior to endotracheal intubation. Goal oxygen saturation 100%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 – 4 liters/min via nasal cannula. • 6 – 15 liters/min via NRB mask. • 15 liters via BVM / ETT / supraglottic airway.
<p><u>Oxytocin</u> (Pitocin)</p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u> Post-partum hemorrhage after placental delivery</p>	<p>Obstetrical Emergencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxytocin 10 units IM.

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<p><u>Pralidoxime</u> (2-PAM)</p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antidote for Nerve Agents or Organophosphate Overdose. • Administered with Atropine. 	<p>Nerve Agent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 – 2 gram IV. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reconstitute pralidoxime 1 gram vial with 20 mL sterile water for injection. ▪ Dilute reconstituted pralidoxime 1 gram in 100 mL of 0.9% NaCl (may dilute 1-2 grams in this manner). ▪ Infuse over 5 minutes (1 gram dose) to 10 minutes (2 gram dose). • Maintenance infusion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reconstitute pralidoxime 1 gram vial with 20 mL sterile water or 0.9% NaCl for injection. ▪ Dilute reconstituted pralidoxime 1 gram in 100 mL of 0.9% NaCl. ▪ Infuse 1 gram over 15 – 30 minutes, maximum of 12 grams/day.
<p><u>Prochlorperazine</u> (Compazine)</p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Emetic used to control Nausea and/or Vomiting. 	<p>Nausea/Vomiting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 – 10 mg IV or 5 mg IM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May repeat once after 10 minutes if nausea/vomiting persists. ▪ May repeat IM every 4 – 6 hours as needed.
<p><u>Proparacaine</u> (Alcaine)</p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topical anesthetic 	<p>Eye Injuries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 drops to affected eye; repeat every 5 minutes as needed.
<p><u>Rocuronium</u></p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-depolarizing paralytic agent used as a component of rapid sequence intubation, when succinylcholine is contraindicated and for post intubation paralysis. • Onset of action is longer than succinylcholine, up to 3 minutes, patient will NOT fasciculate. 	<p>Rapid Sequence Intubation (RSI-Trained Paramedic or Assistant Only) Post Intubation Sedation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 mg/kg IV/IO via on-line Medical Direction only. <p>Rapid Sequence Intubation {Sedate then} Paralyze</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 mg/kg IV/IO.
<p><u>Sodium Bicarbonate</u></p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A buffer used in acidosis to increase the pH in Cardiac Arrest, Hyperkalemia or Tricyclic (Cyclic) Overdose, crush syndrome 	<p>Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose Tricyclic (Cyclic) with symptomatic dysrhythmias, (eg. tachycardia and wide QRS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 – 2 mEq/kg IV/IO. <p>Cardiac Arrest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 mEq/kg IV/IO. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Administer 0.9% NaCl flush before and after sodium bicarbonate. ▪ Do not use routinely in cardiac arrest. <p>Rhabdomyolysis/Crush Injury</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 mEq/kg IV/IO.

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<p><u>Succinylcholine</u> Paralytic Agent</p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paralytic Agent used as a component of rapid sequence intubation. • Avoid in patients with burns >24 hours old, chronic neuromuscular disease (e.g., muscular dystrophy), ESRD, or other situation in which hyperkalemia is likely. 	<p>Rapid Sequence Intubation {Sedate then} Paralyze</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.5 mg/kg IV/IO immediately after sedation.
<p><u>Tetracaine</u></p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topical anesthetic 	<p>Eye Injuries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 drops to affected eye; repeat every 5 minutes as needed.
<p><u>Tranexamic Acid</u> (TXA)</p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Tranexamic Acid (TXA) Protocol – Adult 4.7 	<p>Tranexamic Acid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mix 1 gram TXA in 100 mL 0.9% NaCl or LR. Infuse over approximately 10 minutes IV or IO via pump. Notify receiving facility of TXA administration prior to arrival.
<p><u>Vecuronium</u> Paralytic Agent</p> <p><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-acting non-depolarizing paralytic agent. • Avoid in patients with chronic neuromuscular disease (e.g., muscular dystrophy). 	<p>Rapid Sequence Intubation Post Intubation Paralysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.1 mg/kg IV/IO via on-line Medical Direction only. <p>Rapid Sequence Intubation {Sedate then} Paralyze</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.1 mg/kg IV/IO.

Pediatric Color Coded Appendix

Weight 3-5 Kg (Avg 4.0 Kg) / Length < 59.5 cm

Vital Signs		Dextrose 10%	20 mL	Lidocaine	
Heart Rate	120-150	Diazepam (IV)	0.4 mg	Cardiac Arrest	4 mg
Respirations	24-48	Diphenhydramine	HOLD	Traumatic Brain Injury	6 mg
BP Systolic	70 (+/-25)	Epinephrine 0.1 mg/mL (1:10,000)		Intraosseous	2 mg
		Cardiac	0.04 mg	Lorazepam	0.4 mg
Equipment		Epinephrine 1 mg/mL (1:1,000)		Magnesium Sulfate	
ET Tube	2.5 - 3.5	Nebulized	2.5 mg	RAD	150 mg
Blade Size	0 - 1	IM	0.04 mg	Torsades	200 mg
		Infusion (4 mg in D5W 250 mL)		Methylprednisolone	4 mg
Defibrillation		0.1 mcg/kg/min	1.5 mL/hr	Midazolam IM	0.8 mg
Defibrillation	8 J, 15 J	0.2 mcg/kg/min	3 mL/hr	Midazolam IV	0.4 mg
Cardioversion	4 J, 8 J	0.3 mcg/kg/min	4.5 mL/hr	Morphine Sulfate	0.4 mg
		0.4 mcg/kg/min	6 mL/hr	Naloxone	0.4 mg
Normal Saline	80 mL	0.5 mcg/kg/min	7.5 mL/hr	Norepinephrine (8 mg in D ₅ W 250 mL)	
		Fentanyl	4 mcg	0.1 mcg/kg/min	.75 mL/hr
Acetaminophen	HOLD	Glucagon	0.5 mg	0.2 mcg/kg/min	1.5 mL/hr
Adenosine		Glucose Oral	1 tube	0.5 mcg/kg/min	3.8 mL/hr
1st Dose	0.4 mg	Hydrocortisone	10 mg	1 mcg/kg/min	7.5 mL/hr
Repeat Dose	0.8 mg	Hydroxocobalamin	300 mg	2 mcg/kg/min	15 mL/hr
Albuterol	2.5 mg	Ibuprofen	HOLD	Ondansetron - IV	0.4 mg
Amiodarone	20 mg	Ipratropium w/ albuterol	0.5 mg	Pralidoxime IM	60 mg
Atropine- Bradycardia	0.1 mg			IV (over 15-30 mins)	200 mg
- Organophosphate Poison	0.2 mg			Proparacaine	2 drops
Calcium Chloride	80 mg			Sodium Bicarbonate	4 mEq
Dexamethasone	2.4 mg			Tetracaine	2 drops

Gray (0-3 months)

Weight 6-7 Kg (Avg 6.5 Kg) / Length 59.5-66.5 cm

Vital Signs		Dextrose 10%	35 mL	Lidocaine	
Heart Rate	120-150	Diazepam (IV)	0.65 mg	Cardiac Arrest	6.5 mg
Respirations	24-48	Diphenhydramine	HOLD	Traumatic Brain Injury	9.75 mg
BP Systolic	85 (+/-25)	Epinephrine 0.1 mg/mL (1:10,000)		Intraosseous	3.25 mg
		Cardiac	0.065 mg	Lorazepam	0.65 mg
Equipment		Epinephrine 1 mg/mL (1:1,000)		Magnesium Sulfate	
ET Tube	3.5	Nebulized	2.5 mg	RAD	300 mg
Blade Size	1	IM	0.065 mg	Torsades	350 mg
		Infusion (4 mg in D5W 250 mL)		Methylprednisolone	6.0 mg
Defibrillation		0.1 mcg/kg/min	2.4 mL/hr	Midazolam IM	1.3 mg
Defibrillation	10 J, 20 J	0.2 mcg/kg/min	4.9 mL/hr	Midazolam IV	0.65 mg
Cardioversion	5 J, 10 J	0.3 mcg/kg/min	7.3 mL/hr	Morphine Sulfate	0.6 mg
		0.4 mcg/kg/min	9.7 mL/hr	Naloxone	0.6 mg
Normal Saline	130 mL	0.5 mcg/kg/min	12.2 mL/hr	Norepinephrine (8 mg in D ₅ W 250 mL)	
		Fentanyl	6.5 mcg	0.1 mcg/kg/min	1.2 mL/hr
Acetaminophen	97.5 mg	Glucagon	0.5 mg	0.2 mcg/kg/min	2.5 mL/hr
Adenosine		Glucose Oral	1 tube	0.5 mcg/kg/min	6.1 mL/hr
1st Dose	0.65 mg	Hydrocortisone	10 mg	1 mcg/kg/min	12.2 mL/hr
Repeat Dose	1.3 mg	Hydroxocobalamin	400 mg	2 mcg/kg/min	24.4 mL/hr
Albuterol	2.5 mg	Ibuprofen	HOLD	Ondansetron - IV	0.6 mg
Amiodarone	30 mg	Ipratropium w/ albuterol	0.5 mg	Pralidoxime IM	100 mg
Atropine- Bradycardia	0.13 mg			IV (over 15-30 min)	325 mg
- Organophosphate Poison	0.32 mg			Proparacaine	2 drops
Calcium Chloride	130 mg			Sodium Bicarbonate	7 mEq
Dexamethasone	3.9 mg			Tetracaine	2 drops

Pink (3-6 months)

Pediatric Color Coded Appendix

Weight 8-9 Kg (Avg 8.5 Kg) / Length 66.5-74 cm

Red (7-10 months)

Vital Signs		Dextrose 10%	43 mL	Lidocaine	
Heart Rate	120	Diazepam (IV)	0.85 mg	Cardiac Arrest	8.5 mg
Respirations	24-32	Diphenhydramine	HOLD	Traumatic Brain Injury	12.75 mg
BP Systolic	92 (+/-25)	Epinephrine 0.1 mg/mL (1:10,000)		Intraosseous	4.25 mg
		Cardiac	0.085 mg	Lorazepam	0.85 mg
Equipment		Epinephrine 1 mg/mL (1:1,000)		Magnesium Sulfate	
ET Tube	3.5-4.0	Nebulized	2.5 mg	RAD	350 mg
Blade Size	1	IM	0.085 mg	Torsades	400 mg
		Infusion (4 mg in D5W 250 mL)		Methylprednisolone	8 mg
Defibrillation		0.1 mcg/kg/min	3.2 mL/hr	Midazolam IM	1.7 mg
Defibrillation	20 J, 40 J	0.2 mcg/kg/min	6.4 mL/hr	Midazolam IV	0.85 mg
Cardioversion	9 J, 18 J	0.3 mcg/kg/min	9.5 mL/hr	Morphine Sulfate	0.8 mg
		0.4 mcg/kg/min	12.8 mL/hr	Naloxone	0.8 mg
Normal Saline	170 mL	0.5 mcg/kg/min	15.9 mL/hr	Norepinephrine (8 mg in D ₅ W 250 mL)	
		Fentanyl	8.5 mcg	0.1 mcg/kg/min	1.6 mL/hr
Acetaminophen	127.5 mg	Glucagon	0.5 mg	0.2 mcg/kg/min	3.2 mL/hr
Adenosine		Glucose Oral	1 tube	0.5 mcg/kg/min	8 mL/hr
1st Dose	0.85 mg	Hydrocortisone	20 mg	1 mcg/kg/min	15 mL/hr
Repeat Dose	1.7 mg	Hydroxocobalamin	600 mg	2 mcg/kg/min	31.9 mL/hr
Albuterol	2.5 mg	Ibuprofen	80 mg	Ondansetron - IV	0.8 mg
Amiodarone	40 mg	Ipratropium w/ albuterol	0.5 mg	- ODT	2 mg
Atropine- Bradycardia	0.17 mg			Pralidoxime IM	125 mg
- Organophosphate Poison	0.42 mg			IV (over 15-30 min)	425 mg
Calcium Chloride	170 mg			Proparacaine	2 drops
Dexamethasone	5.1 mg			Sodium Bicarbonate	9 mEq
				Tetracaine	2 drops

Weight 10-11 Kg (Avg 10.5 Kg) / Length 74-84.5 cm

Purple (11-18 months)

Vital Signs		Dextrose 10%	50 mL	Lidocaine	
Heart Rate	115-120	Diazepam (IV)	1 mg	Cardiac Arrest	10.5 mg
Respirations	22-30	Diphenhydramine	12.5 mg	Traumatic Brain Injury	15.75 mg
BP Systolic	96 (+/-30)	Epinephrine 0.1 mg/mL (1:10,000)		Intraosseous	5.25 mg
		Cardiac	0.105 mg	Lorazepam	1 mg
Equipment		Epinephrine 1 mg/mL (1:1,000)		Magnesium Sulfate	
ET Tube	4	Nebulized	5 mg	RAD	400 mg
Blade Size	1	IM	0.105 mg	Torsades	500 mg
		Infusion (4 mg in D5W 250 mL)		Methylprednisolone	10 mg
Defibrillation		0.1 mcg/kg/min	3.9 mL/hr	Midazolam IM	2 mg
Defibrillation	20 J, 40 J	0.2 mcg/kg/min	7.9 mL/hr	Midazolam IV	1 mg
Cardioversion	10 J, 20 J+B12	0.3 mcg/kg/min	11.8 mL/hr	Morphine Sulfate	1 mg
		0.4 mcg/kg/min	15.8 mL/hr	Naloxone	1 mg
Normal Saline	210 mL	0.5 mcg/kg/min	19.7 mL/hr	Norepinephrine (8 mg in D ₅ W 250 mL)	
		Fentanyl	10.5 mcg	0.1 mcg/kg/min	2 mL/hr
Acetaminophen	157.5 mg	Glucagon	0.5 mg	0.2 mcg/kg/min	4 mL/hr
Adenosine		Glucose Oral	1 tube	0.5 mcg/kg/min	9.9 mL/hr
1st Dose	1.05 mg	Hydrocortisone	20 mg	1 mcg/kg/min	19.7 mL/hr
Repeat Dose	2.1 mg	Hydroxocobalamin	700 mg	2 mcg/kg/min	39.4 mL/hr
Albuterol	2.5 mg	Ibuprofen	100 mg	Ondansetron - IV	1 mg
Amiodarone	50 mg	Ipratropium w/ albuterol	0.5 mg	- ODT	2 mg
Atropine- Bradycardia	0.21 mg			Pralidoxime IM	150 mg
- Organophosphate Poison	0.52 mg			IV (over 15-30 min)	525 mg
Calcium Chloride	210 mg			Proparacaine	2 drops
Dexamethasone	6.3 mg			Sodium Bicarbonate	11 mEq
				Tetracaine	2 drops

Pediatric Color Coded Appendix

Weight 12-14 Kg (Avg 13 Kg) / Length 84.5-97.5 cm

Vital Signs		Dextrose 10%	70 mL	Lidocaine	
Heart Rate	110-115	Diazepam (IV)	1.3 mg	Cardiac Arrest	13 mg
Respirations	20-28	Diphenhydramine	16 mg	Traumatic Brain Injury	19.5 mg
BP Systolic	100 (+/-30)	Epinephrine 0.1 mg/mL (1:10,000)		Intraosseous	6.5 mg
		Cardiac	0.13 mg	Lorazepam	1.3 mg
Equipment		Epinephrine 1 mg/mL (1:1,000)		Magnesium Sulfate	
ET Tube	4.5	Nebulized	5 mg	RAD	500 mg
Blade Size	2	IM	0.13 mg	Torsades	650 mg
		Infusion (4 mg in D5W 250 mL)		Methylprednisolone	12 mg
Defibrillation		0.1 mcg/kg/min	4.9 mL/hr	Midazolam IM	2.6 mg
Defibrillation	30 J, 50 J	0.2 mcg/kg/min	9.8 mL/hr	Midazolam IV	1.3 mg
Cardioversion	15 J, 30 J	0.3 mcg/kg/min	14.6 mL/hr	Morphine Sulfate	1.2 mg
		0.4 mcg/kg/min	19.5 mL/hr	Naloxone	1.2 mg
Normal Saline	260 mL	0.5 mcg/kg/min	24.4 mL/hr	Norepinephrine (8 mg in D ₅ W 250 mL)	
		Fentanyl	13 mcg	0.1 mcg/kg/min	2.5 mL/hr
Acetaminophen	195 mg	Glucagon	0.5 mg	0.2 mcg/kg/min	4.9 mL/hr
Adenosine		Glucose Oral	1 tube	0.5 mcg/kg/min	12.2 mL/hr
1st Dose	1.3 mg	Hydrocortisone	30 mg	1 mcg/kg/min	24.4 mL/hr
Repeat Dose	2.6 mg	Hydroxocobalamin	900 mg	2 mcg/kg/min	48.8 mL/hr
Albuterol	2.5 mg	Ibuprofen	120 mg	Ondansetron - IV	1.4 mg
Amiodarone	60 mg	Ipratropium w/ albuterol	0.5 mg	- ODT	2 mg
Atropine- Bradycardia	0.26 mg			Pralidoxime IM	200 mg
- Organophosphate Poison	0.65 mg			IV (over 15-30 min)	650 mg
Calcium Chloride	260 mg			Proparacaine	2 drops
Dexamethasone	7.8 mg			Sodium Bicarbonate	13 mEq
				Tetracaine	2 drops

Yellow (19-35 months)

Weight 15-18 Kg (Avg 16.5 Kg) / Length 97.5-110 cm

Vital Signs		Dextrose 10%	80 mL	Lidocaine	
Heart Rate:	110-115	Diazepam (IV)	1.7 mg	Cardiac Arrest	16.5 mg
Respirations	20-26	Diphenhydramine	20 mg	Traumatic Brain Injury	24.75 mg
BP Systolic	100 (+/-20)	Epinephrine 0.1 mg/mL (1:10,000)		Intraosseous	8.25 mg
		Cardiac	0.165 mg	Lorazepam	1.7 mg
Equipment		Epinephrine 1 mg/mL (1:1,000)		Magnesium Sulfate	
ET Tube	5	Nebulized	5 mg	RAD	650 mg
Blade Size	2	IM	0.165 mg	Torsades	800 mg
		Infusion (4 mg in D5W 250 mL)		Methylprednisolone	16 mg
Defibrillation		0.1 mcg/kg/min	6.2 mL/hr	Midazolam IM	3.3 mg
Defibrillation:	30 J, 70 J	0.2 mcg/kg/min	12.4 mL/hr	Midazolam IV	1.7 mg
Cardioversion:	15 J, 30 J	0.3 mcg/kg/min	18.6 mL/hr	Morphine Sulfate	1.6 mg
		0.4 mcg/kg/min	24.8 mL/hr	Naloxone	1.6 mg
Normal Saline	330 mL	0.5 mcg/kg/min	30.9 mL/hr	Norepinephrine (8 mg in D ₅ W 250 mL)	
		Fentanyl	16.5 mcg	0.1 mcg/kg/min	3.1 mL/hr
Acetaminophen	247.5 mg	Glucagon	0.5 mg	0.2 mcg/kg/min	6.2 mL/hr
Adenosine		Glucose Oral	1 tube	0.5 mcg/kg/min	15.5 mL/hr
1st Dose	1.65 mg	Hydrocortisone	30 mg	1 mcg/kg/min	30.9 mL/hr
Repeat Dose	3.3 mg	Hydroxocobalamin	1200 mg	2 mcg/kg/min	61.9 mL/hr
Albuterol	2.5 mg	Ibuprofen	160 mg	Ondansetron - IV	1.6 mg
Amiodarone	80 mg	Ipratropium w/ albuterol	0.5 mg	- ODT	4 mg
Atropine- Bradycardia	0.33 mg			Pralidoxime IM	250 mg
- Organophosphate Poison	0.82 mg			IV (over 15-30 min)	825 mg
Calcium Chloride	330 mg			Proparacaine	2 drops
Dexamethasone	10 mg			Sodium Bicarbonate	17 mEq
				Tetracaine	2 drops

White (3-4 years)

Pediatric Color Coded Appendix

Weight 19-22 Kg (Avg 20.75 Kg) / Length 110-122 cm

Blue (5-6 years)

Vital Signs		Dextrose 10%	100 mL	Lidocaine	
Heart Rate	100	Diazepam (IV)	2 mg	Cardiac Arrest	20.75 mg
Respirations	20-24	Diphenhydramine	30 mg	Traumatic Brain Injury	31.125 mg
BP Systolic	100 (+/-15)	Epinephrine 0.1 mg/mL (1:10,000)		Intraosseous	10.375 mg
		Cardiac	0.2075 mg	Lorazepam	2.7 mg
Equipment		Epinephrine 1 mg/mL (1:1,000)		Magnesium Sulfate	
ET Tube	5.5	Nebulized	5 mg	RAD	850 mg
Blade Size	2	IM	0.2075 mg	Torsades	1050 mg
		Infusion (4 mg in D5W 250 mL)		Methylprednisolone	20 mg
Defibrillation		0.1 mcg/kg/min	7.8 mL/hr	Midazolam IM	4 mg
Defibrillation	40 J, 85 J	0.2 mcg/kg/min	15.6 mL/hr	Midazolam IV	2 mg
Cardioversion	20 J, 40 J	0.3 mcg/kg/min	23.3 mL/hr	Morphine Sulfate	2 mg
		0.4 mcg/kg/min	31.1 mL/hr	Naloxone	2 mg
Normal Saline	410 mL	0.5 mcg/kg/min	37.5 mL/hr*	Norepinephrine (8 mg in D ₅ W 250 mL)	
		Fentanyl	20 mcg	0.1 mcg/kg/min	3.9 mL/hr
Acetaminophen	311.25 mg	Glucagon	1 mg	0.2 mcg/kg/min	7.8 mL/hr
Adenosine		Glucose Oral	1 tube	0.5 mcg/kg/min	19.5 mL/hr
1st Dose	2.075 mg	Hydrocortisone	40 mg	1 mcg/kg/min	33.9 mL/hr
Repeat Dose	4.15 mg	Hydroxocobalamin	1500 mg	2 mcg/kg/min	77.8 mL/hr
Albuterol	2.5 mg	Ibuprofen	200 mg	Ondansetron - IV	2 mg
Amiodarone	100 mg	Ipratropium w/ albuterol	0.5 mg	- ODT	4 mg
Atropine- Bradycardia	0.41 mg			Pralidoxime IM	300 mg
- Organophosphate Poison	1 mg			IV (over 15-30 min)	1000 mg
Calcium Chloride	415 mg			Proparacaine	2 drops
Dexamethasone	10 mg			Sodium Bicarbonate	21 mEq
* Maximum dose				Tetracaine	2 drops

Weight 23-29 Kg (Avg 27 Kg) / Length 122-137 cm

Orange (7-9 years)

Vital Signs		Dextrose 10%	135 mL	Lidocaine	
Heart Rate	90	Diazepam (IV)	2.7 mg	Cardiac Arrest	27 mg
Respirations	18-22	Diphenhydramine	40 mg	Traumatic Brain Injury	40.5 mg
BP Systolic	105 (+/-15)	Epinephrine 0.1 mg/mL (1:10,000)		Intraosseous	13.5 mg
		Cardiac	0.27 mg	Lorazepam	2.7 mg
Equipment		Epinephrine 1 mg/mL (1:1,000)		Magnesium Sulfate	
ET Tube	6	Nebulized	5 mg	RAD	1100 mg
Blade Size	2-3	IM	0.27 mg	Torsades	1350 mg
		Infusion (4 mg in D5W 250 mL)		Methylprednisolone	28 mg
Defibrillation		0.1 mcg/kg/min	10.1 mL/hr	Midazolam IM	5.4 mg
Defibrillation	50 J, 100 J	0.2 mcg/kg/min	20.3 mL/hr	Midazolam IV	2.7 mg
Cardioversion	30 J, 60 J	0.3 mcg/kg/min	30.4 mL/hr	Morphine Sulfate	2.8 mg
		0.4 mcg/kg/min	37.5 mL/hr*	Naloxone	2 mg
Normal Saline	540 mL	0.5 mcg/kg/min	37.5 mL/hr*	Norepinephrine (8 mg in D ₅ W 250 mL)	
		Fentanyl	27 mcg	0.1 mcg/kg/min	5.1 mL/hr
Acetaminophen	405 mg	Glucagon	1 mg	0.2 mcg/kg/min	10.2 mL/hr
Adenosine		Glucose Oral	1 tube	0.5 mcg/kg/min	25.3 mL/hr
1st Dose	2.7 mg	Hydrocortisone	60 mg	1 mcg/kg/min	50.6 mL/hr
Repeat Dose	5.4 mg	Hydroxocobalamin	1900 mg	2 mcg/kg/min	101.3 mL/hr
Albuterol	2.5 mg	Ibuprofen	280 mg	Ondansetron - IV	2.8 mg
Amiodarone	130 mg	Ipratropium w/ albuterol	0.5 mg	- ODT	4 mg
Atropine- Bradycardia	0.5 mg			Pralidoxime IM	400 mg
- Organophosphate Poison	1.3 mg			IV (over 15-30 min)	1000 mg
Calcium Chloride	540 mg			Proparacaine	2 drops
Dexamethasone	10 mg			Sodium Bicarbonate	27 mEq
* Maximum dose				Tetracaine	2 drops

Pediatric Color Coded Appendix

Weight 30-36 Kg (Avg 33 Kg) / Length 137-150 cm

Vital Signs		Dextrose 10%	180 mL	Lidocaine	
Heart Rate	85-90	Diazepam (IV)	3.3 mg	Cardiac Arrest	36 mg
Respirations	16-22	Diphenhydramine	50 mg	Traumatic Brain Injury	54 mg
BP Systolic	115 (+/-20)	Epinephrine 0.1 mg/mL (1:10,000)		Intraosseous	18 mg
		Cardiac	0.36 mg	Lorazepam	3.3 mg
Equipment		Epinephrine 1 mg/mL (1:1,000)		Magnesium Sulfate	
ET Tube	6.5	Nebulized	5 mg	RAD	1450 mg
Blade Size	3	IM	0.36 mg	Torsades	1800 mg
		Infusion (4 mg in D5W 250 mL)		Methylprednisolone	36 mg
Defibrillation		0.1 mcg/kg/min	12.4 mL/hr	Midazolam IM	6.6 mg
Defibrillation	60 J, 150 J	0.2 mcg/kg/min	24.8 mL/hr	Midazolam IV	3.3 mg
Cardioversion	30 J, 60 J	0.3 mcg/kg/min	37.1 mL/hr	Morphine Sulfate	3.6 mg
		0.4 mcg/kg/min	37.5 mL/hr*	Naloxone	2 mg
Normal Saline	660 mL	0.5 mcg/kg/min	37.5 mL/hr*	Norepinephrine (8 mg in D ₅ W 250 mL)	
		Fentanyl	33 mcg	0.1 mcg/kg/min	6.2 mL/hr
Acetaminophen	540 mg	Glucagon	1 mg	0.2 mcg/kg/min	12.4 mL/hr
Adenosine		Glucose Oral	1 tube	0.5 mcg/kg/min	31 mL/hr
1st Dose	3.6 mg	Hydrocortisone	80 mg	1 mcg/kg/min	61.9 mL/hr
Repeat Dose	7.2 mg	Hydroxocobalamin	2500 mg	2 mcg/kg/min	123.8 mL/hr
Albuterol	2.5 mg	Ibuprofen	360 mg	Ondansetron - IV	3.6 mg
Amiodarone	180 mg	Ipratropium w/ albuterol	0.5 mg	- ODT	4 mg
Atropine- Bradycardia	0.5 mg			Pralidoxime IM	500 mg
- Organophosphate Poison	1.8 mg			IV (over 15-30 min)	1000 mg
Calcium Chloride	660 mg			Proparacaine	2 drops
Dexamethasone	10 mg			Sodium Bicarbonate	33 mEq
* Maximum dose				Tetracaine	2 drops

Green (10-12 years)

Adult Drip Rate Reference

Lidocaine

Standard Concentration 2 Gm/500 mL
4 mg/mL

Dose (mg/min)	Rate (mL/hr)
0.5	7.5
1	15
1.5	22.5
2	30
2.5	37.5
3	45
3.5	52.5
4	60

Nitroglycerine

Standard Concentration 100 mg/250mL
400 mcg/mL premixed infusion

Dose (mg/min)	Rate (mL/hr)
5	0.8
10	1.5
25	3.8
50	7.5
100	15.0
150	22.5
200	30.0
400	60.0

Epinephrine

Standard Concentration 4 mg/250mL
16 mcg/mL

Dose (mg/min)	Rate (mL/hr)
1	3.8
2	7.5
3	11.3
4	15
5	18.8
6	22.5
7	26.2
8	30
9	33.8
10	37.5

Norepinephrine

Standard Concentration 8 mg/250mL
32 mcg/mL

Dose (mg/min)	Rate (mL/hr)
2	3.8
3	5.6
4	8
5	9.4
6	11.2
7	13.1
8	15
9	16.9
10	18.8
15	28.1
20	38
25	46.9
30	56.2

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

ADULT & PEDIATRIC OTHER SKILLS	EMR	EMT	AEMT	PARAMEDIC
Advanced Spinal Assessment		*	*	*
Cervical Spinal Immobilization	Manual Stabilization	√	√	√
Cold Pack	√	√	√	√
Eye Irrigation (Morgan Lens)				√
Hot Pack	√	√	√	√
Procedural Sedation for Transcutaneous Pacing				√
Restraints – Pharmacological				√
Restraints – Physical		√	√	√
Spinal Immobilization – Lying (Long board)	Manual Stabilization	√	√	√
Spinal Immobilization – Seated (K.E.D.)	Manual Stabilization	√	√	√
Spinal Motion Restriction	Manual Stabilization	√	√	√
Splinting	Manual Stabilization	√	√	√
Splinting – Traction	Manual Stabilization	√	√	√
Stroke Scale System	*	*	*	*
Temperature	√	√	√	√
Trauma Triage	*	*	*	*
Tourniquet	√	√	√	√
Wound Care – Occlusive Dressing		√	√	√
Wound Care – Pressure Bandage	√	√	√	√
Wound Care – Hemostatic Bandage	√	√	√	√

√ Skills allowed under existing licensure levels prior to completion of a transition course (FRECA, EMT-B, EMT-I, EMT-P)

√ Skills allowed under new licensure levels after completion of a new course of education or a transition course (EMR, EMT, AEMT, Paramedic)

* Skill allowed only after completion of Protocol Education Module

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

ADULT AIRWAY MANAGEMENT	EMR	EMT	AEMT	PARAMEDIC
Auto Transport Ventilator		✓	✓	✓
BVM	✓	✓	✓	✓
Capnography		✓	✓	✓
Chest Tube Maintenance		✓		✓
CPAP		✓	*	✓
Endotracheal Intubation		✓		✓
Endotracheal Suctioning		✓	✓	✓
Extubation		✓		✓
i-gel		✓	✓	✓
KING LT-D		✓	✓	✓
Laryngeal Mask Airway		✓	✓	✓
Nasogastric Tube		✓		✓
Nasopharyngeal Airway		✓	✓	✓
Nasotracheal Intubation		✓		✓
Nebulizer Treatment		✓	✓	✓
Needle Decompression		✓		✓
Oral Suctioning	✓	✓	✓	✓
Orogastric Tube		✓		✓
Oropharyngeal Airway	✓	✓	✓	✓
Oxygen Administration	✓	✓	✓	✓
Percutaneous Cricothyrotomy		✓		✓
Pulse Oximetry		✓	✓	✓
Rapid Sequence Intubation		✓		See Protocol
Tracheostomy Maintenance		✓	✓	✓
Tracheostomy Replacement		✓		✓

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SCOPE OF PRACTICE

PEDIATRIC AIRWAY MANAGEMENT	EMR	EMT	AEMT	PARAMEDIC
Auto Transport Ventilator		√	√	√
BVM	√	√	√	√
Capnography		√	√	√
Cleared, Opened, Heimlich	√	√	√	√
Endotracheal Intubation		√		√
Endotracheal Suctioning		√	√	√
Extubation		√		√
i-gel		√	√	√
KING LT-D		√	√	√
Laryngeal Mask Airway		√	√	√
Nasogastric Tube		√		√
Nasopharyngeal Airway		√	√	√
Nebulizer Treatment		√	√	√
Needle Decompression		√		√
Oral Suctioning	√	√	√	√
Orogastric Tube		√		√
Oropharyngeal Airway	√	√	√	√
Oxygen Administration	√	√	√	√
Pulse Oximetry		√	√	√
Tracheostomy Maintenance		√	√	√
Tracheostomy Replacement		√		√

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SCOPE OF PRACTICE

ADULT MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION				
ROUTE	EMR	EMT	AEMT	PARAMEDIC
Auto Injector	Provider Protection	√	√	√
Blood Products				√
Endotracheal				√
Inhalation		MDI	√	√
Intramuscular			√	√
Intraosseous			*	√
Intravenous			√	√
Intravenous Pump				√
Oral		√	√	√
Intranasal	* Narcan Only	* Narcan or Assist	√	√
Rectal		Assist	Assist	√
Subcutaneous			√	√
Sublingual		Assist	√	√
PEDIATRIC MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION				
ROUTE	EMR	EMT	AEMT	PARAMEDIC
Auto Injector		√	√	√
Endotracheal				√
Inhalation		MDI	√	√
Intramuscular			√	√
Intraosseous			√	√
Intranasal	* Narcan Only	* Narcan or Assist	√	√
Intravenous			√	√
Intravenous Pump				√
Oral		√	√	√
Rectal		Assist	Assist	√
Subcutaneous			√	√

√ Skills allowed under existing licensure levels prior to completion of a transition course (FRECA, EMT-B, EMT-I, EMT-P)

√ Skills allowed under new licensure levels after completion of a new course of education or a transition course (EMR, EMT, AEMT, Paramedic)

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SCOPE OF PRACTICE

ADULT VASCULAR ACCESS				
	EMR	EMT	AEMT	PARAMEDIC
Blood Draw		*	*	√
Blood Glucose Analysis		*	√	√
Central Line Maintenances				√
Peripheral Venous Access			√	√
Intraosseous			* (Adult)	√
PEDIATRIC VASCULAR ACCESS				
	EMR	EMT	AEMT	PARAMEDIC
Pediatric Vascular Access	EMR	EMT	AEMT	Paramedic
Blood Draw			*	√
Blood Glucose Analysis		*	√	√
Central Line Access				√
Intraosseous			√	√
Peripheral Venous Access			√	√
ADULT CARDIAC MANAGEMENT				
	EMR	EMT	AEMT	PARAMEDIC
Application of 12-Lead ECG		*	*	√
Cardiac Arrest Epinephrine			*	√
CPR – Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation	√	√	√	√
Defibrillation – AED	√	√	√	√
Defibrillation – Manual				√
Interpretation of 12 Lead ECG				√
Resuscitation Initiation and Termination		*	*	*
STEMI System	*	*	*	*
Synchronized Cardioversion				√
Transcutaneous Pacing				√

√ Skills allowed under existing licensure levels prior to completion of a transition course (FRECA, EMT-B, EMT-I, EMT-P)

√ Skills allowed under new licensure levels after completion of a new course of education or a transition course (EMR, EMT, AEMT, Paramedic)

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SCOPE OF PRACTICE

PEDIATRIC CARDIAC MANAGEMENT	EMR	EMT	AEMT	PARAMEDIC
Application of 12 Lead ECG		*	*	✓
CPR – Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation	✓	✓	✓	✓
Defibrillation – AED	✓	✓	✓	✓
Defibrillation – Manual				✓
Interpretation of 12 Lead ECG				✓
Synchronized Cardioversion				✓
Transcutaneous Pacing				✓

✓ Skills allowed under existing licensure levels prior to completion of a transition course (FRECA, EMT-B, EMT-I, EMT-P)

✓ Skills allowed under new licensure levels after completion of a new course of education or a transition course (EMR, EMT, AEMT, Paramedic)

* Skill allowed only after completion of Protocol Education Module

VERMONT CRITICAL CARE PARAMEDIC (CCP) SCOPE OF PRACTICE

ADULT & PEDIATRIC OTHER SKILLS	EMR	EMT	AEMT	Para	CCP
AICD Magnet Use					Y
A-Line Insertion					W
A-Line Assist					Y
A-Line Monitoring					Y
Aortic Balloon Pump Monitoring					W
Blood Chemistry/Lab Interpretation					Y
Blood Product Initiation					Y
Cardiac Assist Device - Impella Maintenance					W
Central Venous Pressure Monitor Interpretation					Y
Chest Tube Insert					W
Continuous Bladder Irrigation					Y
Cricothyroidotomy - Surgical					W
Escharotomy					W
Extubation				Y	Y
Fiberoptic Intubation					W
IFT Transport Documentation					Y
Invasive Intracardiac Catheters Maintenance					Y
Infusion Pump for Medications/Fluids				Y	Y
Intubation Maintenance with Paralytics					Y
Maintenance of Intracranial Monitoring Lines					Y
Manual Transport Ventilator					Y
Percutaneous Pericardiocentesis					W
Procedural Sedation for Transcutaneous Pacing				Y	Y
Rapid Sequence Intubation Adult (Age 13 and Over)				YRSI	YRSI
RSI Pediatric					WRSI
Tracheostomy Replacement				Y	Y
Transvenous Pacing					Y
Ultrasound					W
Umbilical Vein Initiation					W
Use of PICC Lines					Y

Legend: Y = Yes
 N = No
 W = Waiver required
 RSI = Complete VT EMS approved RSI program also required

VERMONT CRITICAL CARE PARAMEDIC (CCP) SCOPE OF PRACTICE

ADULT & PEDIATRIC MEDICATIONS RSI	EMR	EMT	AEMT	Para	CCP
Atropine				YRSI	YRSI
Etomidate (Amidate)				YRSI	YRSI
Ketamine (Ketalar)				YRSI	YRSI
Lidocaine				YRSI	YRSI
Propofol (Diprivan) – Maintenance Only				YRSI	YRSI
Rocuronium (Zemuron)				YRSI	YRSI
Sucinycholine (Anectine)				YRSI	YRSI
Vecuronium (Norcuron)				YRSI	YRSI
ADULT & PEDIATRIC MEDICATIONS	EMR	EMT	AEMT	Para	CCP
Acetaminophen (Tylenol) PO		Y	Y	Y	Y
Acetaminophen (Tylenol) IV				Y	Y
Acetazolamide (Diamox)					Y
Acetylcysteine (Mucomyst)					Y
Alteplase (Activase)					Y
Antibiotics Initiation					W
Antibiotics Maintenance				Y	Y
Bilvalirudin (Angiomax)					Y
Blood Products				Y	Y
Calcium Gluconate					Y
Clopidogrel (Plavix)					Y
Dexamethasone (Decadron)					Y
Dobutamine (Dobutamine)					Y
Esmolol (Brevibloc)					Y
Hypertonic Saline					Y
Fosphenytoin (Cerebyx)					Y
Glycoprotein IIB/IIIA Inhibitor					Y
IIB/IIIA Maintenance				Y	Y
Heliox (With RT)					Y
Heparin (Heparin) Initiation Bolus and/or Drip					Y
Heparin (Heparin) Maintenance				Y	Y
Hydralazine (Apresoline)					Y
Ibuprofen (Motrin)					Y
Insulin - Regular					Y
Ketamine – Dissociative Dose					Y
Ketamine – Infusion					W
Ketamine – Analgesic Dose					Y
Ketoralac				Y	Y
Labetalol (Normodyne)					Y

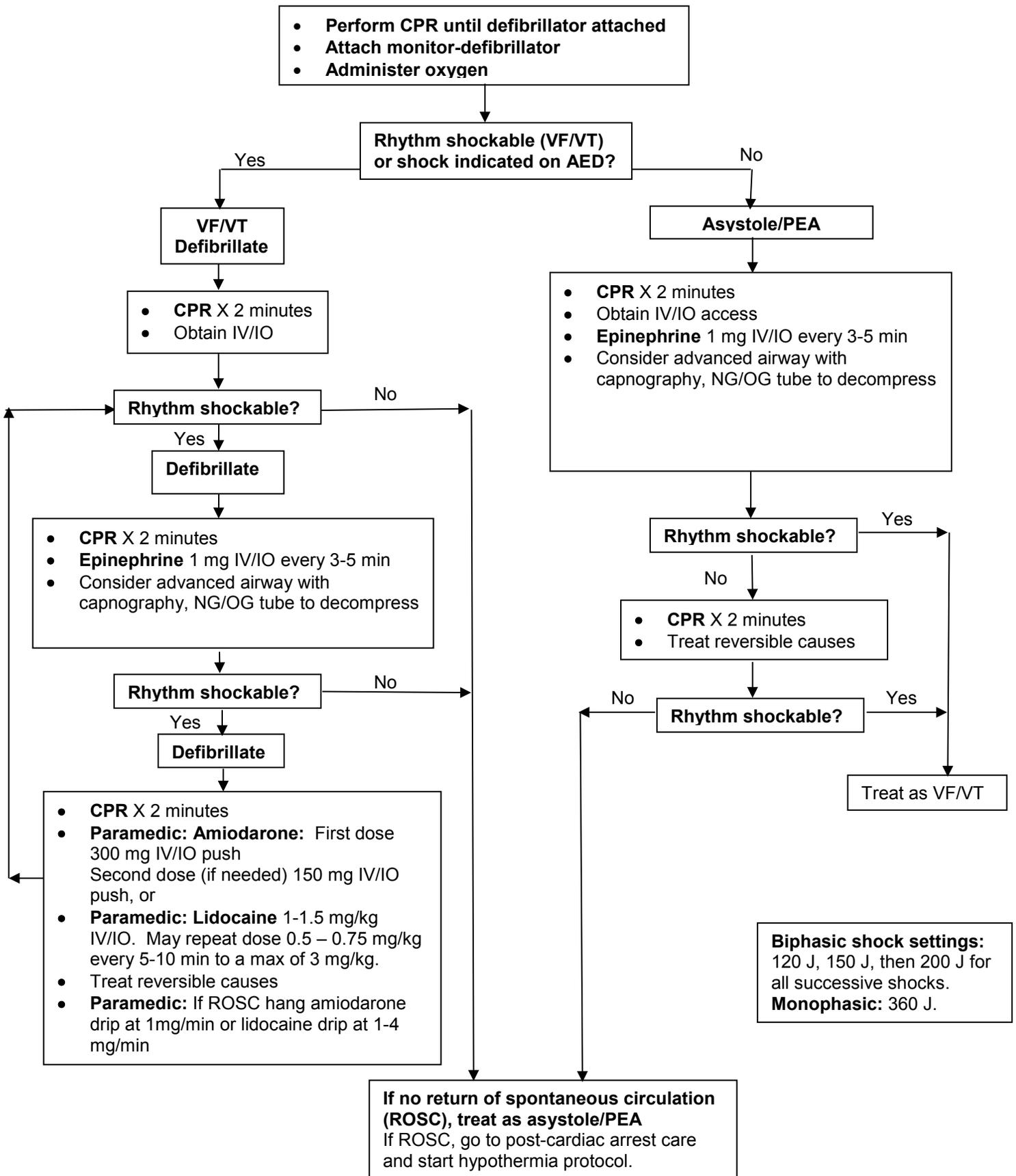
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VERMONT CRITICAL CARE PARAMEDIC (CCP) SCOPE OF PRACTICE

ADULT & PEDIATRIC MEDICATIONS	EMR	EMT	AEMT	Para	CCP
Levitra (Keppra)					Y
LMWH (Lovenox)					Y
Mannitol 20% (Osmitrol)					Y
Metoprolol (Lopressor)					Y
Milrinone Initial/Maint					W
Nicardipine (Cardene)					Y
Nimodipine (PO for SAH)					Y
Nitroprusside (Nipride)					Y
Octreotide Acetate (Sandostatin)					Y
Ondansetron			Y	Y	Y
Pantoprazole (Protonix)				Y	Y
Phenobarbital (Luminal)					Y
Phentolamine					W
Phenytoin (Dilantin)					Y
Potassium Chloride					Y
Propofol Initiation					W
Propofol Maintenance					Y
Prostaglandin Infusion					W
Protamine Sulfate					W
Protein Complex Concentrates					W
Sodium Polystyrene Sulfonate (Kayexelate)					Y
Sucrose Solution 24%					Y
Terbutaline					Y
Thiamine (Vitamin B12)					Y
Ticagrelor (Brillinta)					Y
TPN/Lipids					Y
TNKase (Tenecteplase)					Y
TPA Infusion Maintenance					Y
TXA Initiation				Y	Y
TXA Maintenance				Y	Y
Various Eye Drops					Y

Legend: Y = Yes
 N = No
 W = Waiver required
 RSI = Complete VT EMS approved RSI program also required

Adult Cardiac Arrest Algorithm



Adult Bradycardia Algorithm

- **Assess appropriateness for clinical condition.**
- **Heart rate typically <50/min if bradyarrhythmia.**

- Identify and treat underlying cause:**
- Maintain patent airway; assist breathing as necessary
 - Oxygen (if hypoxemic)
 - Cardiac monitor to identify rhythm; monitor blood pressure and oximetry
 - IV access
 - 12-lead ECG if available; don't delay therapy

- Persistent bradycardia (heart rate < 50/min) causing:**
- Hypotension?
 - Acutely altered mental status?
 - Signs of shock?
 - Ischemic chest discomfort?
 - Acute heart failure?

No
↓
Monitor and observe

Yes
↓
Atropine 0.5 mg IV every 3-5 minutes to a total dose of 3 mg.

If atropine ineffective:

- **Transcutaneous pacing**, or
- **Epinephrine IV/IO Infusion** 2-10 mcg/min, titrated to effect.
- **Contact Medical Direction** for consultation.

Adult Tachycardia Algorithm

- **Assess appropriateness for clinical condition. Heart rate typically $\geq 150/\text{min}$ if tachyarrhythmia.**
- **For tachyarrhythmia $\geq 150/\text{min}$, identify and treat underlying cause:**
 - Maintain patent airway; assist breathing as necessary
 - Oxygen (if hypoxemic)
 - Cardiac monitor to identify rhythm; monitor blood pressure and oximetry

- Persistent tachycardia causing**
- Hypotension?
 - Acutely altered mental status?
 - Signs of shock?
 - Ischemic chest discomfort?
 - Acute heart failure

Yes

No

QRS wide (>0.12 sec)?

No

Yes

- Obtain and transmit 12-lead ECG
- IV access
- Vagal maneuvers
- **Adenosine** if regular: 6 mg, then 12 mg rapid IV push as needed. Be sure to flush line immediately after with saline
- For atrial fibrillation or atrial flutter, consider:
 - **Diltiazem** 0.25 mg/kg IV/IO over 2 min (max dose 20 mg). Consider 10 mg max dose for elderly patient or patient with low BP. May repeat in 15 minutes at 0.35 mg/kg (max dose 25 mg) if necessary **OR**
 - **Metoprolol** 5 mg IV/IO over 2-5 minutes, may repeat every 5 minutes to a max of 15 mg to achieve ventricular rate of 90-100 BPM.
- Contact **Medical Direction** for consultation.

Synchronized Cardioversion

- Consider sedation
- If regular narrow complex, consider **adenosine** 6 mg rapid IV/IO followed by saline flush. May repeat at 12 mg every 1-2 minutes x 2 if no conversion.
- **Synchronized cardioversion** initial recommended doses:
 - Narrow regular: 50-100 J biphasic or 200J monophasic
 - Narrow irregular 120-200 J biphasic or 200J monophasic
 - Wide regular: 100J biphasic or monophasic
 - Wide irregular/polymorphic: 120J-200J biphasic or 360J monophasic

- Obtain and transmit 12-lead ECG
- IV access
- **Rhythm regular and monomorphic?**

No

Yes

Treat as torsades de pointes

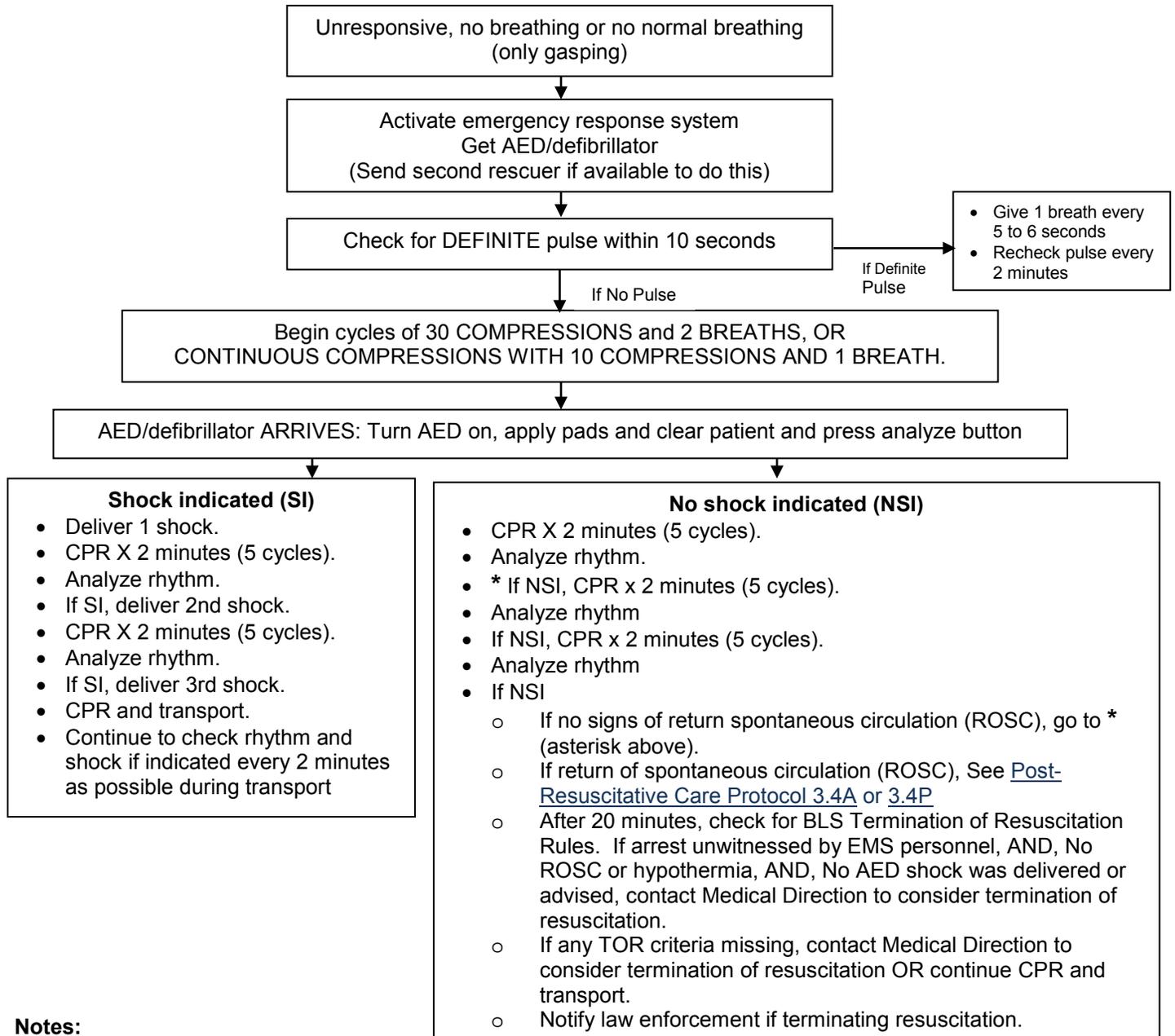
Treat as ventricular tachycardia (VT)

Magnesium

- **Pulseless:** 1-2 grams magnesium sulfate diluted in 10 mL 0.9% NaCl, administer IVP.
- **With pulse:** 1-2 grams magnesium sulfate diluted in 50 mL D5W or 0.9% NaCl, administer over 5-20 minutes

- Consider **adenosine** 6-12 mg IV/IO, then 12 mg if no conversion.
- Consider **amiodarone** 150 mg IV/IO mixed over 10 minutes, may repeat once in 10 minutes. If successful, consider maintenance infusion of 1 mg/min **OR**
- **Lidocaine** 1 mg/kg IV/IO, may repeat every 5 minutes x 3 doses. If successful, consider maintenance infusion of 1-4 mg/min IV/IO
- Contact **Medical Direction** for consultation and to consider cardioversion.

Cardiac Arrest Treatment Sequence With Automated External Defibrillation



Notes:

- Whenever a no shock indicated (NSI) message appears, perform CPR for 2 minutes (5 cycles).
- If the patient regains a pulse, check breathing. Ventilate with high-concentration oxygen, or give oxygen by nonrebreather mask as needed.
- If you initially shock the patient and then receive an NSI message before giving three shocks, follow the steps in the above right-hand column.
- If you initially receive an NSI message and then on a subsequent analysis receive a shock indicated (SI) message, follow the steps in the above left-hand column.
- Occasionally you may need to shift back and forth between the two columns. If this happens, follow the steps until one of the indications for transport (described below) occurs.
- Transport as soon as one of the following occurs:
 - o You have administered three shocks.
 - o You have received three consecutive NSI messages (separated by two minutes of CPR) and Termination of Resuscitation criteria are not met.
 - o The patient regains a pulse.
- If you shock the patient out of cardiac arrest and he arrests again, start the sequence of shocks from the beginning.

CPAP for AEMT and Paramedic

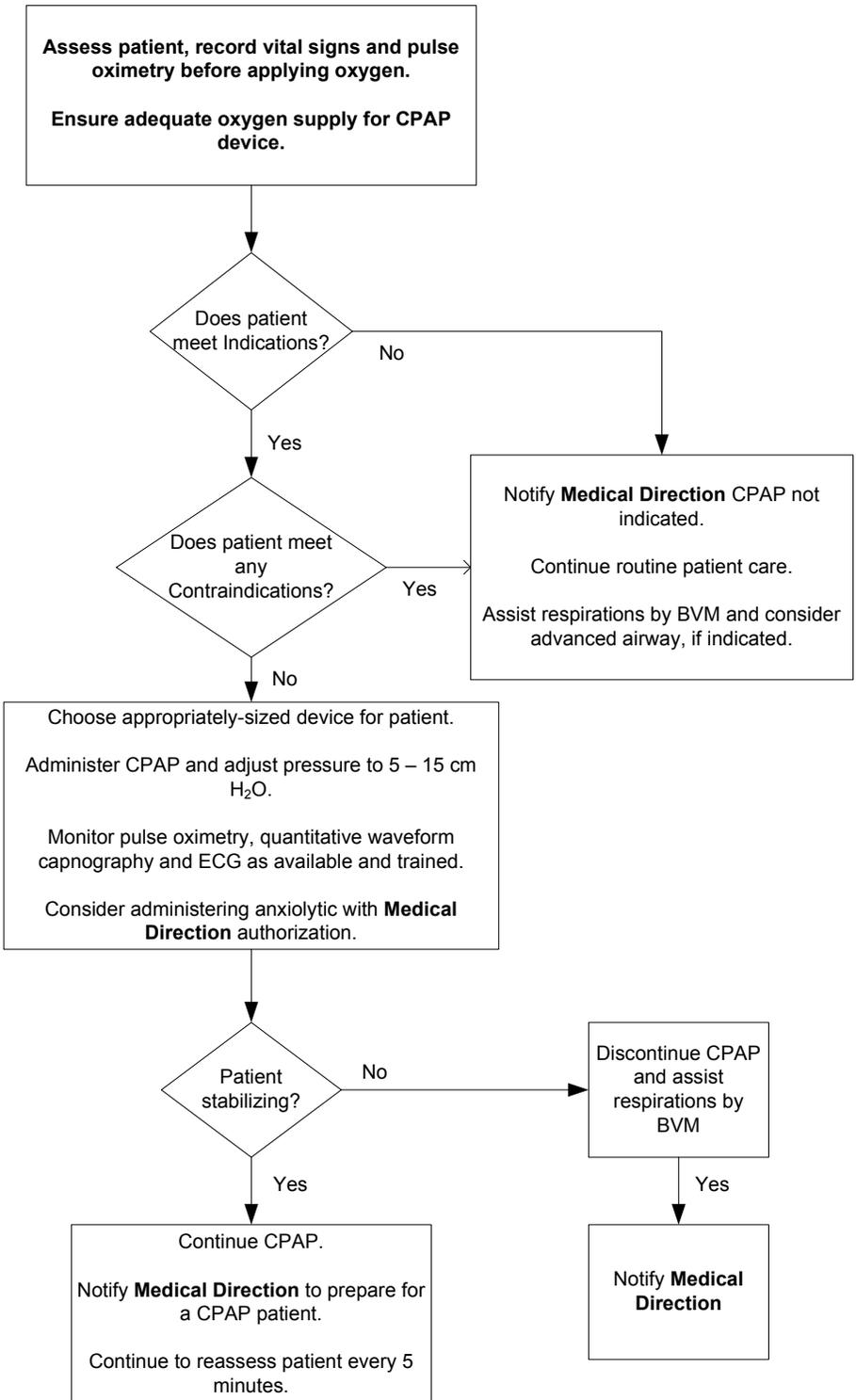
CPAP Indications

- ❖ Spontaneously breathing patient in moderate to severe respiratory distress due to congestive heart failure/pulmonary edema, asthma/COPD, pneumonia, submersion injury or undifferentiated respiratory distress, concurrent with the following:
 - Oxygen saturation < 94%
 - Respiratory rate > 25 (see chart for pediatric rates)
 - Retractions or accessory muscle use

CPAP Contraindications

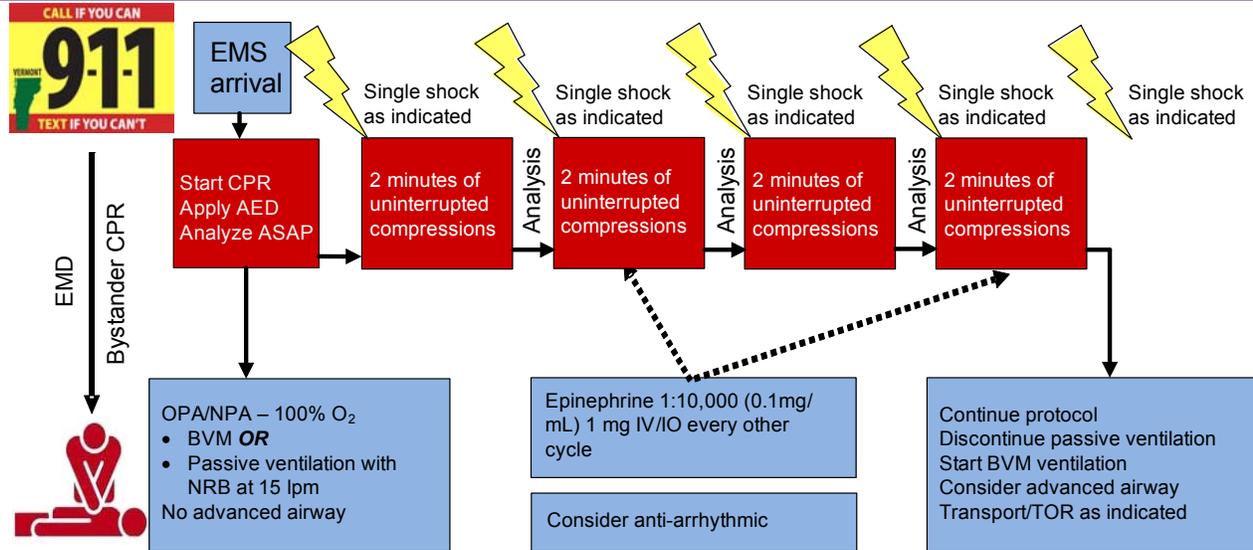
- ❖ Cardiac or respiratory arrest/apnea
- ❖ Unable to follow commands
- ❖ Unable to maintain their own airway
- ❖ Agitated or combative behavior and unable to tolerate mask
- ❖ Vomiting and/or active GI bleed
- ❖ Respiratory distress secondary to trauma
- ❖ Suspicion of pneumothorax
- ❖ Facial trauma or impossible face seal
- ❖ Hypotension with SBP < 100 mmHg
- ❖ Pediatric SBP < 70 + (avg in yrs x 2)

Pediatric Respiratory Distress		
	Age	Resp Rate
Infant	0 - 1 year	> 60
Toddler	1 - 3 years	>40
Preschooler	4 - 5 years	>34
School Age	6 - 12 years	>30
Teen	13 and older	>25



High Performance CPR - Adult

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Key Points:

- Perform 2 minute cycles of uninterrupted chest compressions.
- Interrupt chest compressions only for rhythm/pulse check and defibrillation.
- Ventilation / Oxygenation options:
 - BVM ventilation 1 breath every 10 chest compressions without interrupting compressions. **OR**
 - Apply high flow oxygen via non-rebreather mask (NRB) for passive insufflation
 - For arrests of non-cardiac etiology, including respiratory and trauma, use BVM ventilation.

EMT STANDING ORDERS - ADULT

E

- Routine Patient Care—with focus on CPR. Administer 100% oxygen.
- Immediate chest compressions (high quality CPR with minimal interruptions). (Use metronome if possible.)
- **Apply AED and use as soon as possible** (with minimum interruption of chest compressions). (See AED Algorithm in Appendices.)
- Continue 2 minute cycles of uninterrupted chest compressions followed by AED analysis and shock for 4 cycles.
- Place an oral or nasal airway.
- Ventilation / oxygenation options during 4 cycles:
 - BVM ventilation 1 breath every 10 chest compressions during recoil and without interrupting compressions (avoid hyperventilation), **OR**
 - Apply high flow oxygen via NRB.
- After 4 cycles:
 - Continue 2 minute cycles of uninterrupted chest compressions.
 - If passive insufflation was used, switch to BVM ventilation.
- If a shock is delivered to patient, transport as soon as one of the following occurs:
 - You have administered 5 (five) shocks.
 - The patient regains a pulse.
 - If you have received 5 (five) consecutive NSI messages, contact **Medical Direction** to consider termination of resuscitation **OR** continue resuscitation and transport.
- Consider treatable causes: hypoxia, overdose/poisoning, hypothermia, hypoglycemia, and hypovolemia—treat as per specific protocol.
- If ROSC occurs see [Post Resuscitative Care Protocol 3.4A](#).
- Consider termination of efforts or not attempting resuscitation (see [Do Not Resuscitate & Clinician Orders Protocol 8.9](#) and/or [Resuscitation Initiation & Termination Protocol 8.17](#)).
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.

Protocol Continues

High Performance CPR – Adult

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2018

Protocol Continued

ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS - ADULT

A

- Do not interrupt chest compressions for advanced airway, IV/IO placement or epinephrine administration.
- During first 4 cycles, consider advanced airway **only** if airway patency cannot be maintained using basic maneuvers and adjuncts.
- Establish IV/IO access. Administer 500 mL bolus 0.9% NaCl IV/IO in the absence of pulmonary edema.
- After the first 2 minute cycle, administer epinephrine **1:10,000 (0.1mg/mL)** 1 mg IV/IO; repeat every other cycle.
- After 4 cycles (8 minutes), consider placement of a supraglottic airway without interrupting chest compressions.
- Monitor quantitative waveform capnography throughout resuscitation, if available, to assess and monitor airway placement and CPR quality, and to monitor for signs of Return of Spontaneous Circulation.
- Consider and correct treatable causes: hypoxia, overdose/poisoning, hypothermia and hypovolemia—treat as per specific protocol.

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS - ADULT

P

- Follow ACLS guidelines as trained and credentialed. (See Cardiac Algorithms in Appendices.)
 - During first 4 cycles, consider advanced airway only if airway patency cannot be maintained using basic maneuvers and adjuncts.
 - After 4 cycles (8 minutes), consider advanced airway without interrupting chest compressions.
- For ventricular fibrillation (VF)/pulseless ventricular tachycardia (VT):**
- Defibrillation when available, with minimum interruption in chest compressions. Use manufacturer's recommendations. Continue CPR for 2 minutes; then rhythm check; then:
 - Administer epinephrine (**1:10,000**) (**0.1 mg/mL**) 1 mg IV/IO; repeat every other cycle.
 - If no response after second defibrillation, administer:
 - Amiodarone 300 mg IV/IO (preferred first-line agent), repeat dose 150 mg as needed OR
 - Lidocaine 1 to 1.5 mg/kg IV/IO, repeat dose 0.5 to 0.75 mg/kg (maximum total dose 3 mg/kg.)
 - For Torsades de Pointes: Magnesium sulfate 1 to 2 g IV/IO over 1-2 minutes.
 - For refractory ventricular fibrillation, consider:
 - Changing pad placement from anterior-apex to anterior-posterior.
 - If second manual defibrillator is available, consider [Double Sequential Defibrillation Procedure 6.1](#)
- For asystole or pulseless electrical activity (PEA):**
- Continue CPR for 5 cycles (2 minutes), then rhythm check.
 - Administer epinephrine (**1:10,000**) (**0.1 mg/mL**) 1 mg IV/IO, repeat every 3 to 5 minutes.
 - Consider tension pneumothorax and treat with needle decompression if indicated.
 - For suspected pre-arrest metabolic acidosis, suspected or known hyperkalemia (renal failure/dialysis patient), known tricyclic antidepressant overdose, or suspected excited/agitated delirium, consider sodium bicarbonate 1 mEq/kg IV/IO. Do not use routinely in cardiac arrest. Administer 0.9% NaCl flush before and after sodium bicarbonate. See [Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose Protocol -- Adult 2.18A](#).
 - For known or suspected hyperkalemia (dialysis patient/renal failure) or as an antidote for toxic effects (hypotension and arrhythmias) from calcium channel blocker or B-blocker overdose consider calcium chloride 500 to 1,000 mg (5 to 10 mL of a 10% solution) IV/IO over 10 minutes. May repeat as needed. Contact Medical Direction. Do not mix with or infuse immediately before or after sodium bicarbonate. Do not use routinely in cardiac arrest. See [Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose Protocol – Adult 2.18A](#).

Protocol Continues

High Performance CPR - Adult

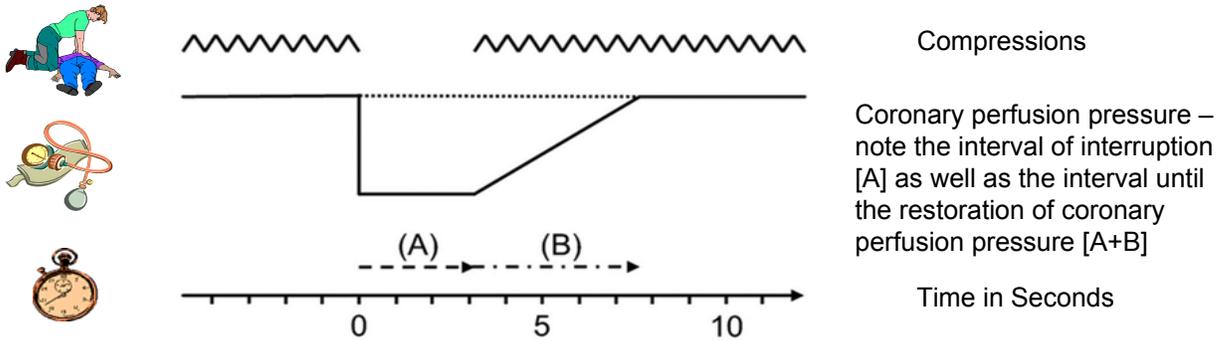
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EMS agency should use a “pit crew” approach to ensure the most effective and efficient cardiac arrest care.

Except as indicated in this protocol, follow applicable AHA ACLS and BLS guidelines.

EFFECT OF INTERRUPTIONS TO CPR ON CORONARY PERFUSION PRESSURE



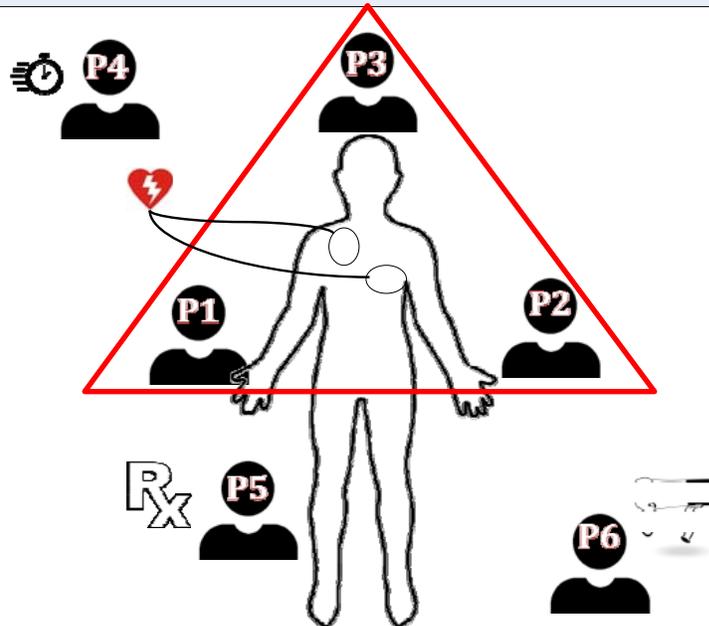
PEARLS:

- Early CPR and early defibrillation are the most effective therapies for cardiac arrest care.
- Minimize interruptions in chest compression, as pauses rapidly return the blood pressure to zero and stop perfusion to the heart and brain.
- Delay application of mechanical CPR devices until after the first four cycles (8 minutes) of CPR and decision to transport. Mechanical devices should only be used by services that are practiced and skilled at their application, with minimal interruption to compressions.
- Switch compressors every two minutes to minimize fatigue.
- Perform chest compressions while defibrillator is charging and resume compressions immediately after the shock is delivered.
- When possible, use live CPR feedback devices and voice recorder to facilitate high-quality CPR and for QA.

High Performance CPR - Adult

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EMS agency should use a “pit crew” approach when using this protocol to ensure the most effective and efficient cardiac arrest care. Training should include teamwork simulations integrating BLS, and ALS crew members who regularly work together. EMS systems should practice teamwork using “pit crew” techniques with predefined roles and crew resource management principles. *One example is as follows:*



POSITION #1-Compressor 1 (right side of patient):

- Initiates 2 minutes of chest compressions at rate of 100-120 / min
- Assists Position 3 with ventilations in off cycle
- Monitor femoral pulse and coach CPR effectiveness

POSITION #2-Compressor 2 (left side of patient):

- Sets up defibrillator
- Alternates 2 minutes of chest compressions with Position 1
- Assists Position 3 with ventilations in off cycle
- Monitor femoral pulse and coach CPR effectiveness

POSITION #3-Airway (At patient's head):

- Opens airway and inserts OPA
- Assembles NRB or BVM
- If using BVM, provide 2 handed mask seal
- Inserts advanced airway after 8 minutes/4 cycles.

POSITION #4-Team Leader (Outside CPR triangle):

- Coaches the metrics
- Calls for compressor change every 2 minutes
- Calls for rhythm analysis every 2 minutes, immediate shock if indicated
- Monitor CPR quality and use of metronome at 100-120 bpm
- Assumes duties of Position 5/6 if limited to four rescuers throughout resuscitation.

POSITION #5-Vascular/Meds (Outside CPR triangle):

- Initiates IV/IO access
- Administers medications per protocol

POSITION #6-Code Commander (Outside CPR triangle):

- Ideally highest level provider
- Communicates/interfaces with CPR Team Leader
- Coordinates patient treatment decisions
- Communicates with family/loved ones
- Completes Cardiac Arrest Check List

Protocol Continues

High Performance CPR - Adult

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Protocol Continued

- If feasible and the scene is safe, immediately upon arrival, one member of the crew should rapidly enter the scene without equipment (other than gloves) to begin chest compressions.
- Clear some space to optimize your working environment. Move furniture or get the patient in a position that will allow a rescuer space to kneel on both sides of them, and where there is sufficient room at the head. Effectiveness of chest compressions decrease during patient movement. Therefore resuscitate the patient as close to the scene as operationally feasible.
- Position 1 and 2 are ideally set up on opposite sides of patient's chest and perform continuous chest compressions, alternating after two minutes to avoid fatigue.
- REMEMBER: Effective chest compressions are one of the most important therapies for the pulseless patient. Effective is defined as:
 - A rate of at least 100 and less than 120 compressions/minute - Use of metronome or CPR feedback device is essential. (e.g. built into monitor or smart phone app)
 - A depth of 2 - 2.4 inches
 - Allow for complete chest recoil (avoid leaning on chest)
 - Do not interrupt compressions to obtain IV access or perform airway management.
 - Do not hyperventilate as it increases intrathoracic pressure and decreases blood return to the heart. Ventilate 1 breath every 10 compressions during recoil without interrupting chest compressions.
- Chest compressions should only be interrupted during rhythm check (AED analysis or manual) and defibrillation shocks. Continue compressions when AED/ defibrillator is charging, if device allows.
- During interruptions compressor's hands should hover over chest.
- Perform pulse check simultaneously with rhythm check.
- With the goal of immediate uninterrupted chest compressions, if a mechanical CPR device is used, it should not lead to delay or interruption in chest compressions. Delay application of mechanical CPR device until after the initial 4 cycles of CPR and a decision to transport has been made.
- Pre-charge manual defibrillators prior to rhythm check to ensure rapid defibrillation if a shockable rhythm is present. If no shock is indicated, disarm the device (dump the charge)
- Utilize ETCO₂ to assess CPR quality and monitor for signs of ROSC.
- Use of a CPR checklist to ensure that all best practices are followed during CPR.

Example Cardiac Arrest Check List

- Code commander and pit crew roles identified
- Chest compression interruptions minimized
- Compressors rotated at minimum every 2 minutes
- Metronome set between 100 and 120 beats per minute
- AED/defibrillator applied
- O₂ flowing and attached to BVM/NRB
- ETCO₂ waveform present
- IV/IO access established
- Possible causes considered
- Gastric insufflation limited and gastric decompression considered
- Family present and ongoing communication provided

Consider possible causes

Hypovolemia	Tablets/toxins
Hypoxia	Tamponade
Hydrogen Ions (acidosis)	Tension pneumothorax
Hypothermia	Thrombosis (MI)
Hyper/hypokalemia	Thrombosis (PE)
Hypoglycemia	Trauma

Vermont Incident Scene and Training Rehabilitation Guidelines for EMS

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2018

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agencies primary responsibility at any incident is to provide emergency medical care and transportation to the sick and injured. EMS Agencies may assist Incident Management Teams (Fire Departments, Tactical Teams, SAR, Hazmat, Police Departments, etc), in the provision of incident scene and training rehabilitation (Rehab) of personnel who are at risk of suffering adverse effects from stress or from exposure to heat, cold, or hazardous environments according to the following guidelines and in accordance with local Fire/EMS/Police Department standard operating guidelines (SOGs) and the principles of the Incident Command System (ICS). EMS Agencies that decide to participate in Rehab operations are encouraged to develop written agreements with Fire or Police Departments or other agencies that clearly define operational roles in accordance with these guidelines.

Personnel entering Rehab must be medically assessed for concerning signs or symptoms including the following: Chest pain, altered mental status, shortness of breath, dizziness, nausea or vomiting, syncope, heat stress, significant injury or other complaints. Personnel with concerning signs or symptoms should receive Emergency Medical Care according to standard Vermont Statewide Emergency Medical Service Treatment Protocols.

EMS personnel may perform the following activities in the Rehab area:

- Assess personnel for concerning signs or symptoms
- Obtain and report vital signs
- Obtain and report oxygen saturation (pulse oximetry) and carboxyhemoglobin oximetry values
- Provide oral hydration with water or electrolyte-containing sport drinks
- Provide nutritional snacks or meals for longer duration events
- Provide passive and active cooling measures
- Compare measured vital signs to baseline records if available (baseline values established prior to incident as part of comprehensive worker safety/health program. See NFPA 1582/1583/1584.)

Any personnel encountered on the incident scene, including fire or police department members, that present with signs/symptoms of acute medical/traumatic illness or injury should receive emergency medical care by EMS personnel in accordance with the Vermont Statewide EMS Treatment Protocols. Treatments and assessments rendered using the standard EMS protocols, which may include oxygen administration, IV fluid administration, medication administration, etc., should be part of a continuum of care that, as is true for the vast majority of EMS patients, results in transport to an appropriate acute care hospital.

The decision to release an individual from Rehab is determined by the Incident Commander (IC) or delegate in command of the Rehab area. Decisions should ideally be made collaboratively with EMS staff on scene, but the ultimate responsibility for worker health and safety lies with the IC.

EMS in the Warm Zone

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Active shooter and other threat events can happen in any community and are increasing in frequency. Since Columbine, CO in 1999 there has been over 100 incidents and according to FEMA 250 people killed between 2000 and 2012, with a drastic rise since 2008¹. These events will impact all emergency response agencies, regardless of size. Traditionally EMS has been taught to wait for the police to declare the scene safe, but increasingly the casualty outcomes indicate that a change in thinking, training and operations is needed. A National think tank after the Sandy Hook, CT shooting noted that, ‘maximizing survival requires an updated and integrated system that can achieve multiple objectives simultaneously².’ The Department of Homeland Security also indicates that, ‘in order to maximize lives saved, there is a need to get life-saving medical attention to victims quickly. In previous active shooter incidents, the focus has been exclusively on law enforcement neutralizing the threat³.’

Given these observations it is imperative that local Fire, EMS, and Law Enforcement use and jointly train on unified command, common terminology, communications, common tactics, and a concept of operations to effectively achieve positive outcomes seamlessly and simultaneously. While no two incidents are identical, there are commonalities that can be maximized and built upon to improve the outcome. The response must also be employed in a form compatible with the resources in any given community.

This document will discuss EMS and fire personnel taking a more active role in Warm Zone operations using the Rescue Task Force (RTF) concept and our integration into a truly unified response with law enforcement. A Rescue Task Force is used to describe a team(s) deployed to provide point-of-wound care to victims while there remains an active threat. The objective of the team is to treat, stabilize, and rapidly remove civilian casualties while wearing ballistic protection and under the protection of Law Enforcement⁴. The RTF shall operate in a Warm Zone or an area of indirect threat that can be considered clear but not secure (i.e. Law Enforcement has either cleared or isolated the threat to a level of minimal or mitigated risk)⁵. While there is a place for tactical EMS, this document and the best practices described will not include this concept.

¹ FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin January 2014

² Hartford Consensus April 2, 2013

³ Homeland Security, Office of Health Affairs: Stakeholder Engagement on Improving Survivability in IED and Active Shooter Incidents, May 16, 2014

⁴ International Association of Firefighters – Position Statement: Active Shooter Events (June 17, 2013)

⁵ International Association of Fire Chiefs Position Statement – Active Shooter and Mass casualty Terrorist Events (October 10, 2013)

EMS in the Warm Zone

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I) Preface

Active shooter and other events that create significant traumatic injuries through violence pose special challenges to our first responders. These will evolve rapidly and without the benefit of sufficient resources. The first responder system bears a responsibility to its providers and the general public to ensure appropriate preparation and that the usual and customary standards of Emergency Medical Service (EMS) care during an incident are maintained and provided to the best extent possible.

Saving lives depends on the rapid but safe and coordinated response from Law Enforcement (LE), Fire and EMS. The goal is to get EMS care to victims quickly but safely.

II) Purpose

The purpose of this document is to establish policies and procedures for the dispatch and operations of a Rescue Task Force (RTF) in an active shooter or violent incident producing injuries.

III) Definitions

- a) **Active Shooter**: An individual or individuals actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area; in most cases, active shooters use firearms(s), but edged weapons, explosives and motor vehicles are other methods that have been used. There is no pattern or method to their selection of victims.
- b) **Ballistic Protective Equipment**: Ballistic protective gear, including body armor, for the head and body; i.e., vests, gloves, knee pads, helmets, and shields.
- c) **Casualty Collection Point (CCP)**: A location that is used for the assembly, triage (sorting), medical stabilization, and subsequent evacuation of casualties. It may be an intermediary point before formal triage.
- d) **Cleared**: An area has been searched and does not pose a threat – no perpetrator present.
- e) **Cold Zone**:
 - i) Area where no significant danger or threat can be reasonably anticipated.
 - ii) Area where triage and treatment of patients would occur, additional resources would be staged, and command functions carried out.
- f) **Concealment**: A structure that hides a person's exact location but can be penetrated by ballistic weapons (e.g. a sheetrock wall).
- g) **Contact Team**: The first responding officers/security personnel who go directly to the ongoing threat, make contact as soon as possible, and neutralize the threat, in order to minimize injuries and lives lost.
- h) **Cover**: An area generally impenetrable to ballistic weapons, such as concrete wall. Something that prevents a responder from being observed by the perpetrator AND provides direct protection from the hazard/threat.
- i) **Hot Zone**:
 - i) Area wherein a direct and immediate life threat exists.
 - ii) Depends upon current circumstances and is subjective.

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- iii) Area is dynamic and may change frequently depending upon the situation.
- j) **Incident Command**: A management system designed to enable effective and efficient domestic incident management by integrating a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure, designed to enable effective and efficient domestic incident management.
- k) **Incident Command Post**: The field location where the primary functions of Incident Command are performed.
- l) **Point-of-Wound Care**: The physical location (building or otherwise) where patient care is initiated at or near to where the victim was injured.
- m) **Rescue Task Force (RTF)**: A team or set of teams deployed to provide point of wound-care to victims where there is an on-going ballistic or explosive threat. These teams treat, stabilize, and remove the injured while wearing Ballistic Protective Equipment in a rapid manner under the protection of law enforcement. This response can be deployed to work in, but not limited to, the following:
 - i) Active shooter in a school, business, mall, health care facility, conference, special event, etc.
 - ii) Any other scene that is, or has, the possibility of an on-going ballistic or explosive threat.
- n) **Secured**: An area has been searched and is now under direct Law Enforcement control.
- o) **Soft Target**: A person or thing that is relatively unprotected or vulnerable, especially to attack.
- p) **Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC)**: TECC guidelines are a set of best practice recommendations for casualty management during high threat civilian tactical and rescue operations. Based upon the principles of Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC), TECC guidelines account for differences in the civilian environment, resources allocation, patient population, and scope of practice. The applications of the TECC guidelines for civilian Fire/EMS medical operations are far reaching, beyond just the traditional application in tactical and Law Enforcement operations. The medical response to almost any civilian scenario involving high risk to responders, austere environments, or atypical hazards will benefit from the guidelines, including active shooter response, CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives) and Terrorism related events, mass casualty, wilderness/austere scenarios, technical rescue events, and even traditional trauma response.
- q) **Unified Command**: An Incident Command System application used when more than one agency has incident jurisdiction or when incidents cross political jurisdictions.
- r) **Warm Zone**:
 - i) Area wherein a potential threat exists, but it is not direct or immediate.
 - ii) Operating within this zone is permissible in order to save a life, as directed by Unified Command (i.e. Rescue Task Force performing rapid extrication of a victim under security of law enforcement).
 - iii) This could become a much larger area depending upon the situation.
 - iv) Warm Zone may be dynamic and become a Hot Zone very rapidly.

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IV) Preplanning Considerations

- a) Fire/EMS, law enforcement, Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPS) and other public safety partners should work in a coordinated effort to develop standard operating guidelines for Unified Command, common terminology, communications, common tactics, and a concept for operations.
- b) All public safety partners should work cooperatively to identify target hazards and key components of each, such as main access, control rooms, master keys, isolation corridors, maps, and internal communication systems.
- c) All public safety partners should work cooperatively to assess “soft targets”.
- d) Determine multiple locations for potential Incident Command Posts (ICP). All public safety partners should consider situations where responders could converge on the scene and freelance, and to develop strategies to prevent freelancing.
- e) Once preplanning has been completed all public safety partners should work cooperatively to create a pilot policy and training program so as to determine implementation challenges. This pilot program and plan should be delivered through joint training and exercise with cooperating agencies.
- f) Coordination of training agencies:
 - i) In order for training to be most effective it should be implemented as a system with all responders collaboratively participating. This practice promotes interoperability well before the event so that any inconsistencies and questions can be addressed.
 - ii) All training should begin with a plan and end goal in mind. It should start small and build on previous training and education. Communities should conduct joint training and education between local first responders and any other agency that may be expected to respond or participate in case of emergency.
 - iii) Once foundation training has occurred it should be exercised through Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) compliant table tops, drills, and full scale exercises. At each stage there should be a feedback mechanism to gather information on activities and challenges to improve the plan and future training.
 - iv) Training topics should include the following:
 - 1) Incident Command and Unified Command applied to high threat/active violent situations
 - 2) Weapons awareness for fire and EMS personnel
 - 3) Medical scope of RTF
 - 4) Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) concepts, including pediatric considerations
 - 5) Coordination of resources
 - 6) Equipment specific to the operation
 - 7) Communications, including importance of radio discipline
 - 8) Clear expectations of roles for LE, Fire, and EMS
 - 9) Team role composition and personal traits of members necessary to operate in this specific environment

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- 10) Dynamic nature of evolving situation and ability to change instantly from warm to hot zone, and expected actions of RTF including the changing availability of resources
- 11) Mutual aid locations and integrated training
- 12) Shelter-in-place concepts
- 13) Casualty Collection Point(s) (CCP)

V) Equipment

It is important to have consistent equipment across all teams not only for medical care but rapid identification of medical personnel. The focus should be on early hemorrhage control and rapid extrication⁶. Consider go-bags or medical vests with the ability to treat at least eight victims with extra equipment bags to treat an additional sixteen victims.

- a) Equipment to consider (see Figure 3):
 - i) Tourniquets (adult and pediatric)
 - ii) Pressure dressings
 - iii) Hemostatic bandages
 - iv) Occlusive chest seals
 - v) Adjunct airways (Adult and Pediatric)
 - vi) Chest decompression needles (paramedics)
 - vii) Personal safety / protective equipment shall be available for RTF teams. All ballistic body armor / protection should be compliant with the current NIJ (National Institute of Justice) Ballistic Resistance Standard, 0101.06, minimum Type IIIa (see Figure 4):
 - 1) Ballistic vests with clear identification of RTF/EMS
 - 2) Ballistic helmet
 - 3) Eye protection
 - 4) Flashlight
 - viii) Two-way radio with remote microphone or ear piece/microphone
 - ix) Lightweight and single person deployable patient moving devices
 - x) Packaging for rapid deployment of RTF equipment by team members
 - xi) Packaging for rapid resupply of RTF team
- b) Go-bag for EMS/Patient care equipment – portable, carried on your person and packaged for efficiency. Each set of equipment should be able to treat at least eight (8) patients with the provision for extra equipment (See Figure 3 for suggested list of equipment).

VI) Procedure

- a) Law enforcement will be the lead agency and will establish a Unified Command with Fire/EMS to rapidly deploy RTF teams into established zones.
- b) The RTF composition should consist of a minimum of four (4) personnel⁷: Two (2) EMS and two (2) Law Enforcement.

⁶ Hartford Consensus April 2, 2013

⁷ International Association of Fire Chiefs Position Statement – Active Shooter and Mass casualty Terrorist Events (October 10, 2013)

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- i) There should be a Law Enforcement officer for each EMS provider to deliver security.
- ii) RTF/EMS personnel should be certified and licensed. EMS personnel should perform to their Scope of Practice.
- c) Prior to deploying an RTF team, threat zones must be identified:
 - i) **Hot Zone** – (also known as the area of direct threat) area where there is known hazard or life threat that is direct and immediate. An example of this would be any uncontrolled area where the active shooter could directly engage an RTF team. RTF teams will not be deployed into a Hot Zone.
 - ii) **Warm Zone** - (also known as the area of indirect threat) areas that law enforcement has either cleared or isolated the threat where there is minimal or mitigated risk. This area can be considered clear but not secure. This is where the RTF will deploy, with security, to treat victims.
 - iii) **Cold Zone** - areas where there is little or no threat, either by geography or distance in relation to threat, or after area has been secured by law enforcement. This is an area where Fire/EMS will stage to triage, treat, and transport victims once removed from the warm zone.
- d) Command and Control:
 - i) Coordination should include the following:
 - 1) Shared common terminology and communication across fire/EMS/law enforcement.
 - 2) Span of control.
 - 3) Jointly developed protocols for response.
 - 4) Planning for and practicing rapid treatment and evacuation of patients⁸.
 - ii) RTF can be deployed for the following reasons:
 - 1) Casualty treatment.
 - 2) Casualty removal from warm to the CCP or to the cold zone.
 - 3) Movement of supplies from cold to warm zone.
- e) Response:
 - i) Initial dispatch

When the local emergency communications/dispatch receives a call for an active shooter or violent incident with injuries the original dispatch will be for (enter local dispatch nomenclature) call type. This will generate the following response:

 - 1) Law Enforcement patrol units (define a minimum for your community).
 - 2) Fire/EMS units (define a minimum for your community).
 - 3) Units dispatched should enable at least one RTF with necessary equipment to be placed in operation.

⁸ U.S Fire Administration: Fire/Emergency Medical Services Department Operational Considerations and Guide for Active Shooter and Mass Casualty Incidents (September, 2013)

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- ii) If Fire/EMS responders encounter a threat (i.e. active shooter(s)) in the staging area prior to Law Enforcement arrival, they shall immediately withdraw. When withdrawal is not possible, seek cover and request an expedited law enforcement response. Communicate unit identifier and location to Law Enforcement. When possible, provide the following information:
 - 1) Number, location(s), and description of shooter(s).
 - 2) Types of weapons in use (e.g., semiautomatic rifles, hand guns, explosives, etc).
 - 3) Number and location(s) of victims and hostages, if known.
 - 4) Communication method used by the shooters, if apparent (cell phones, radios).
 - 5) Contact Teams (CT's) will be established to address the threat. The CT's goal is to neutralize the threat.
- f) The first arriving units should:
 - i) Determine if they are responding into a static or ongoing situation and relay this information to dispatch.
 - ii) Identify if predetermined staging area is safe. If not safe, consider an area out of the line of sight of incident, in line of approach to location.
 - iii) Law Enforcement will establish 1-2 Contact Teams of 1-4 officers to address the threat.
 - iv) When appropriate personnel arrive on scene, Law Enforcement and Fire/EMS personnel will assemble into Rescue Task Forces of 2 EMS providers and 2-4 law enforcement and prepare for deployment. (Figure 1).
- g) If possible, determine a Casualty Collection Point (CCP) prior to deploying. Depending on the size of the incident and location, injured victims may need to be placed in a CCP before transition to the cold zone. This will be predetermined by initial units, protected by Law Enforcement, and relayed to the RTF teams through Unified Command. As this area may be secure, it may be considered a cold zone and may be staffed with non-RTF Fire/EMS personnel.
- h) Rescue Task Force deployment:
 - i) Once Unified Command has identified the need to deploy RTF teams, they will be deployed into the warm zone to begin victim care and evacuation as needed. The goal of initial RTF team is to stabilize as many victims as possible.
 - ii) Command will dispatch RTF teams by numbers, i.e., RTF Team 1. RTF Teams are not to deploy unless they have two personnel from Law Enforcement as security. Do not self-deploy into the warm zone.
 - iii) Command shall:
 - 1) Establish RTF resupply near point of entry.
 - 2) Establish an external Casualty Collection Point (CCP).
 - 3) Designate area(s) in the cold zone to receive patients for treatment and transportation, as appropriate.
 - iv) The least number of personnel and teams should be deployed into the warm zone to achieve the goals.

EMS in the Warm Zone

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- v) All RTF teams that make entry shall notify the Incident Commander of their location and any victims encountered. Constant communication between the IC and RTFs is essential for effective resource coordination and allocation.
- vi) When teams make entry, they will treat the injured using Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) guidelines.
- vii) Should the RTF encounter a threat/suspect the medical personnel shall:
 - 1) Evacuate if safe to do so.
 - 2) Shelter in a place that provides protection to medical personnel, preferable with an exterior door or means of escape.
- viii) When the RTF is operating in the Warm Zone, all patients encountered by the RTF teams will be treated as they are accessed. Any patient who can ambulate without assistance will be directed by the team to self-evacuate down the cleared corridor under Law Enforcement direction. Any patient who is dead will be visibly marked to allow for easy identification and to avoid repeated evaluations by additional RTF teams.
- ix) The first RTF teams in operation will enter the area and treat as many patients as possible.
- x) Additional RTF teams that enter the area should be primarily tasked with extrication of the victims already treated by the initial team(s). However, if needed, additional RTF teams may be sent into areas unreached by the initial teams or to other areas with accessible victims. (Figure 2)
- i) Additional tasks for local resources:

Communities should predetermine tasks for arriving units and assign those in each local plan. The following tasks should be assigned as local resources arrive:

 - 1) Assume or establish Command for first responder units.
 - 2) Meet with law enforcement to establish Unified Command.
 - 3) Establish personnel accountability, especially if members have already entered the warm zone.
 - 4) Work with law enforcement to identify the RTF working zones.
 - 5) Consider adding an additional EMS Taskforce or MCI Alarm for patient treatment and transport.
 - 6) Consider primary staging to a larger or safer area if needed.
 - 7) Create RTF teams from deployed units.
 - 8) Equip RTF Teams with proper protective gear and equipment.
 - 9) Designate Casualty Collection Points (CCP).
 - 10) Once Unified Command has declared the working zones, RTF teams must be informed of their working limits.
 - 11) Use command boards to label and keep track of RTF teams.
 - 12) EMS staging in the Cold Zone and a Treatment Dispatch Manager need to be considered for larger numbers of patients.
 - 13) Establish a resupply for extended RTF operations.
 - 14) Prepare to establish staging for transport units, treatment, and transportation areas.
 - 15) Consider mutual aid for coverage of ongoing emergency needs of community.

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j) Fire Suppression Considerations:

Consider assigning personnel to control fire suppression and protection systems if safe to do so.

k) Communications:

Clear/plain language communication is vital. The following elements should be determined in preplanning and should be practiced and adhered to:

- i) Use of plain language
- ii) Common definitions
- iii) Command and control
- iv) Strict radio etiquette
- v) Radio frequencies assigned for interoperability
- vi) Radio frequency assigned to the RTF
- vii) Use of ear microphone, lapel microphone, and designated communicators

VII) Patient Care

- a) EMS personnel should treat the injured as an MCI using Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) concepts and guidelines. Rapid identification, treatment and evacuation are paramount. Ambulatory victims should self-evacuate and fatalities should be clearly marked.
- b) TECC, “provides a framework to prioritize medical care while accounting for on-going high-risk operations.”⁹
 - i) Medical scope should have at its core:
 - 1) Focus on THREAT acronym:
 - T**hreat suppression
 - H**emorrhage control
 - R**apid **E**xtrication to safety
 - A**ssessment by medical providers
 - T**ransport to definitive care
- c) **TECC Goals:**
 - a. Accomplish the mission with minimal casualties.
 - b. Prevent any casualty from sustaining additional injuries.
 - c. Keep response team maximally engaged in neutralizing the existing threat (e.g. active shooter, unstable building, confined space HAZMAT, etc.).
 - d. Minimize public harm.
- d) **TECC Principles:**
 - a. Establish tactical supremacy (Law Enforcement) and defer in depth medical interventions if engaged in ongoing direct threat (e.g. active fire fight, unstable building collapse, dynamic post-explosive scenario, etc.).

⁹ International Association of Fire Chiefs Position Statement – Active Shooter and Mass casualty Terrorist Events (October 10, 2013)

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- b. Threat mitigation techniques will minimize risk to casualties and the providers. These should include techniques and tools for rapid casualty access and egress.
 - c. Triage should be deferred to a later phase of care. Prioritization for extraction is based on resources available and the tactical situation.
 - d. Minimal trauma interventions are warranted.
 - e. Consider hemorrhage control.
 - f. Tourniquet (TQ) application is the primary “medical” intervention to be considered in Direct Threat.
 - g. Consider instructing casualty to apply direct pressure to the wound if a tourniquet is not available, or application is not tactically feasible.
 - h. Consider quickly placing or directing casualty to be placed in position to protect airway.
- e) **TECC Guidelines:**
- a. Mitigate any threat (Law Enforcement) and move to a safer position (e.g. Return fire, utilize less lethal technology, assume an overwhelming force posture, extraction from immediate structural collapse, etc.).
 - b. Direct the casualty to stay engaged in any tactical operation if appropriate.
 - c. Direct the casualty to move to a safer position and apply self aid if able.
 - d. Casualties with an altered mental status should be disarmed immediately by law enforcement.
 - e. Casualty Extraction
 - i. If a casualty can move to safety, they should be instructed to do so.
 - ii. If a casualty is *unresponsive*, the scene commander or team leader should weigh the risks and benefits of a rescue attempt in terms of manpower and likelihood of success.
 - iii. Remote medical assessment techniques should be considered.
 - iv. If the casualty is *responsive* but cannot move, a tactically feasible rescue plan should be devised.
 - f. Recognize that threats are dynamic and may be ongoing, requiring continuous threat assessments.
 - g. *Stop life threatening external hemorrhage* if tactically feasible:
 - i. Direct casualty to apply effective tourniquet if able.
 - ii. Apply the tourniquet over the clothing 2 – 3” proximal to wound.
 - iii. Tighten until cessation of bleeding and move to safety. Consider moving to safety prior to application of the TQ if the situation warrants.
 - iv. For response personnel, tourniquet should be readily available and accessible with either hand.
 - v. Consider instructing casualty to apply direct pressure to the wound if no tourniquet is available or application is not tactically feasible.
 - vi. Consider application of a second tourniquet just proximal to the first for failure to control bleeding.
 - vii. Apply a topical hemostatic bandage, in combination with direct pressure, or pressure bandage using Kerlix and Ace wrap, for wounds in anatomical areas where tourniquet application is ineffective or impractical (junctional/torso injury or proximal extremity location where tourniquet application is not practical).
 - h. Airway Management

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- i. Unconscious casualty without airway obstruction:
 - 1. Chin lift or jaw thrust maneuver.
 - 2. Nasopharyngeal airway.
 - 3. Place the casualty in the recovery position.
- ii. Casualty with airway obstruction or impending airway obstruction:
 - 1. Chin lift or jaw thrust maneuver.
 - 2. Nasopharyngeal airway.
 - 3. Allow a conscious casualty to assume any position that best protects the airway, to include sitting up.
 - 4. Place an unconscious casualty in the recovery position.
 - 5. If the previous measures are unsuccessful, refer to a medic immediately.
- i. Breathing
 - i. In a casualty with progressive respiratory distress and known or suspected torso trauma, consider a tension pneumothorax and refer to a medic as soon as possible for possible needle decompression.
 - ii. All open and/or sucking chest wounds should be treated by immediately applying a vented chest seal to cover the defect. If a vented chest seal is not available, use a non-vented chest seal. Monitor the casualty for respiratory distress. If it develops, you should suspect a tension pneumothorax. Treat this by burping or temporarily removing the dressing. If that doesn't relieve the respiratory distress, refer to a medic.

NOTE: Once patients have been moved / relocated to an established treatment area, patient care by EMS providers shall be accomplished utilizing recognized Vermont Statewide EMS Protocols.

EMS in the Warm Zone

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Figure 1

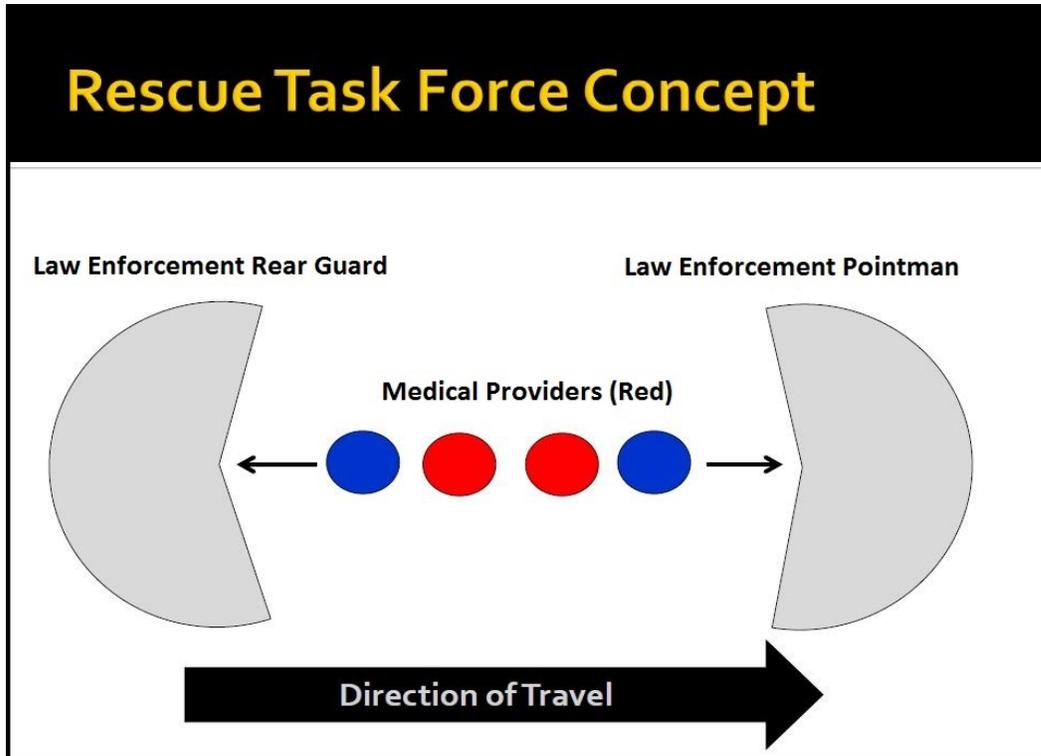


Figure 2

EMS in the Warm Zone

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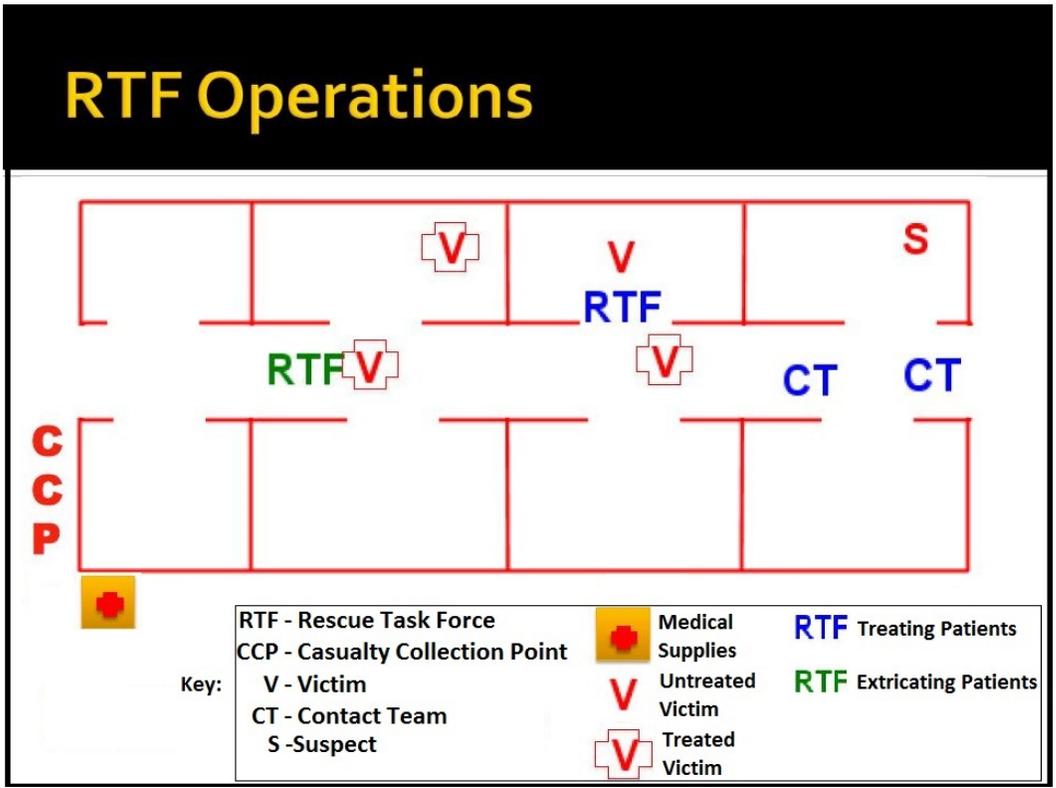


Figure 3

SUGGESTED GO-BAG EMS EQUIPMENT LIST

QTY	ITEM
6	CAT (or similar) Tourniquets (adult & pedi)
4	Occlusive Dressings / Chest Seals
2	ARS Needles (14ga X 3.25")
10	4X4 Gauze
4	Hemostatic Gauze Bandages
2	6-inch Israeli Bandages/Ace & Kerlix
2	4-inch Israeli Bandages/Ace & Kerlix
6	6-inch elastic roll
1	roll of tape
4	pairs of gloves
Various	NPAs w/surgilube
1	Trauma Shears
1	Penlight
2	Kerlix Rolls
1	Permanent Marker



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Figure 4

NIJ Standard		0101.06	
LEVEL	Caliber		
Level IIA	9mm 124 gr. FMJ RN 40 S&W	9mm	40 S&W
Level II	9mm 124 gr. FMJ RN .357 Magnum 158 gr. JSP	9mm	.357 Mag.
Level IIIA	.357 Sig 125 gr. FN .44 Magnum 240 gr. JHP		.44 Mag. .357 Sig
Level III	7.62mm NATO 148 gr. (.308 Caliber) FMJ		
Level IV	30.06 166 gr. (.30 Caliber) M2AP Armor Piercing		
		7.62mm (.308 cal.)	30.06 (.30 Cal.)
			NIJ Standard 0101.06 Velocities
			1225 ft/s 1155 ft/s
			1305 ft/s 1430 ft/s
			1470 ft/s 1430 ft/s
			2780 ft/s
			2880 ft/s