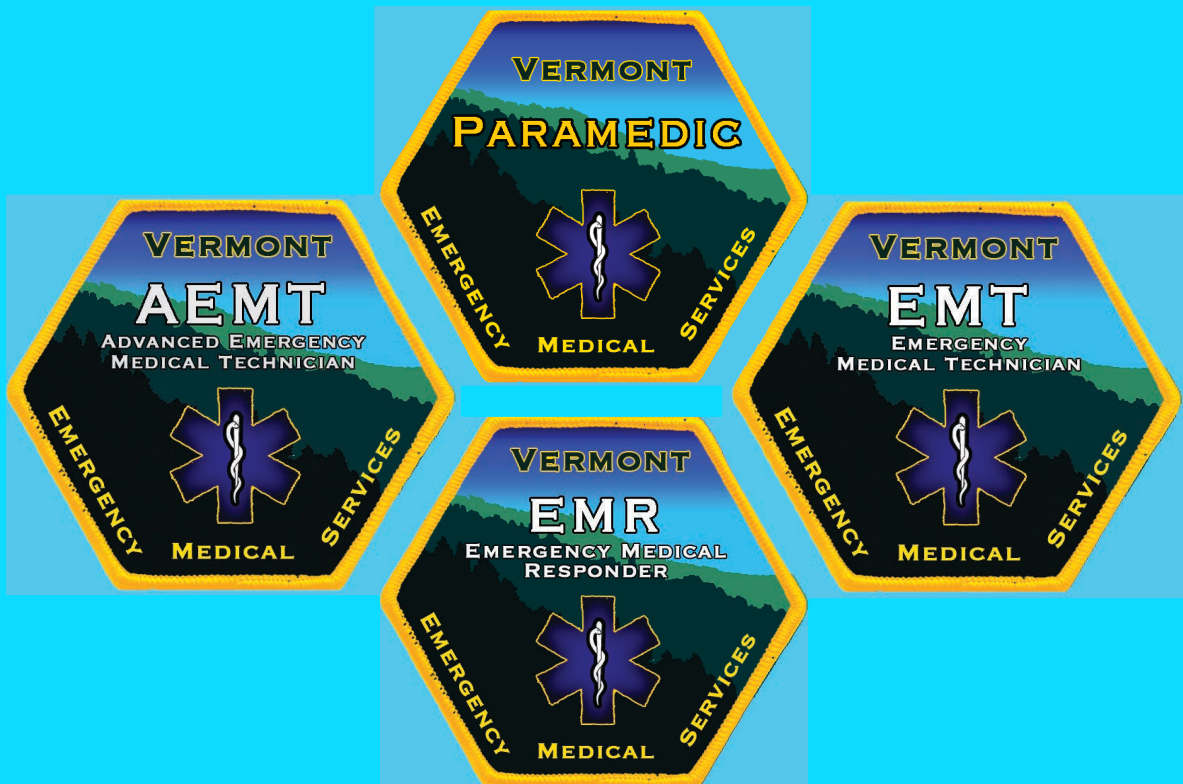




# Vermont Statewide Emergency Medical Services Protocols








2020



Vermont Department of Health

Office of Public Health Preparedness and Emergency Medical Services

Vermont Statewide EMS Protocols – 2020 (replaces 2018 version)

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 Workgroup of Vermont Emergency Medical Services.

These 2020 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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Division of Emergency Preparedness, Response  
& 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>

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# Preface

We welcome you to the 2020 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:

- Members of the Protocol Workgroup
- 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 occasion, 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](mailto: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.

Preface Continues 

# Preface

Preface Continued

## 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 4](#) 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 their 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 of standing orders as they appear in these protocols is not necessarily the order in which they might be executed by a provider.

### 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

Preface Continues

# Preface

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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.

Preface Continues

# 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.

We would like to thank the members of the protocol workgroup, who made an outstanding contribution to the development of these protocols. 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,

Dan Batsie  
EMS Chief

Daniel Wolfson, MD  
Medical Director

Jamie Benson  
EMS Intern

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



## RESPOND TO SCENE IN A SAFE MANNER

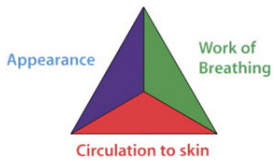
- Review dispatch information.
- Use lights and sirens when responding, as appropriate per emergency medical dispatch information and local guidelines. (See [Safe Response and Transportation Guidelines 8.18.](#))
- Use Incident Command System (ICS) for all responses and scene management.

## 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). Vermont EMS strongly encourages the use of a pediatric reference system when treating pediatric patients. Agencies should adopt and train with a system that uses weight, length, or age to identify normal ranges of vital signs and appropriate equipment sizes. The system should also identify pediatric medication doses by volume and minimize the need for medication math. 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 8.8](#)).

## AIRWAY AND BREATHING

- Airway
  - Assess the patient for a patent airway. If the airway is not patent, take immediate action to correct it.
- Assess breathing: rate, effort, tidal volume, and breath sounds.
  - If breathing is inadequate, ventilate with 100% oxygen using bag-valve-mask.
  - Administer oxygen as appropriate with a target of achieving 94 – 98% saturation (88 – 92% in COPD).
  - Consider waveform capnography (i.e., EtCO<sub>2</sub>) and/or CO-oximetry, if available.
  - Assess lung sounds and chest.

## CIRCULATION ASSESSMENT

- Assess patient’s circulation including pulse, skin signs and capillary refill time.
- Control serious bleeding using direct pressure, pressure bandages, tourniquets, and/or hemostatic bandages. See [Tourniquet & Hemostatic Agent Procedure – Adult & Pediatric 6.11](#).
- 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 2.22A](#).
  - For pediatric patients, administer fluids based on physiological signs and therapeutic end-points per the [Shock Protocol -- Pediatric 2.22P](#). 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”. Lactated Ringers may be used as a direct substitute for Normal Saline, except when administering certain medications. See [Vermont Adult Medication Reference Appendix A1](#).

Protocol Continues

# 1.0

# Routine Patient Care



Protocol Continues

## 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 Procedure 6.0](#).
- For pediatric patients requiring spinal motion restriction, see [Pediatric Transportation Policy 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					

## 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.
- 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 Policy 8.0](#) and [Trauma Triage and Transport Decision Policy 8.20](#).

## 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, 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

- See [Traumatic Emergencies Protocol 4.10](#).

## 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

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 EtCO<sub>2</sub>, 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 <sub>2</sub> Saturation	Ranges	General Patient Care
≥ 94%	Normal	Usually indicate adequate oxygenation; validate with clinical assessment (see below)
90% – 93%	Mild hypoxia	Consider O <sub>2</sub> to maintain 94 - 98% saturation (88 – 92% in COPD patients).
Less than 90%	Moderate to severe hypoxia	Give oxygen to maintain saturation 94 - 98%, 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 <sub>2</sub> Readings and Ventilatory Rates		
EtCO <sub>2</sub> 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"> <li>● Able to maintain adequate oxygenation by using extra effort to move air.</li> <li>● Symptoms include increased respiratory rate, sniffing position, nasal flaring, abnormal breath sounds, head bobbing, intercostal retractions, mild tachycardia.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hallmarks of respiratory failure are respiratory rate less than 20 breaths per minute for children &lt;6 years old; less than 12 breaths per minute for children &lt;16 years old; and &gt;60 breaths per minutes for any child; cyanosis, marked tachycardia or bradycardia, poor peripheral perfusion, decreased muscle tone, mottling, and depressed mental status.</li> </ul>
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	> 25	< 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.

# 1.1 EMR Routine Patient Care

## RESPOND TO SCENE IN A SAFE MANNER

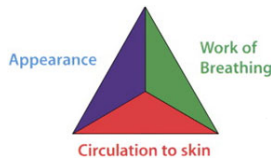
- Review dispatch information.
- Use lights and sirens when responding, as appropriate per emergency medical dispatch information and local guidelines. (See [Safe Response and Transportation Guidelines 8.18.](#))
- Use Incident Command System (ICS) for all responses and scene management.

## 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). Vermont EMS strongly encourages the use of a pediatric reference system when treating pediatric patients. Agencies should adopt and train with a system that uses weight, length, or age to identify normal ranges of vital signs and appropriate equipment sizes. The system should also identify pediatric medication doses by volume and minimize the need for medication math.
- 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 ([Do Not Resuscitate \(DNR\) & Clinical Orders \(COLST\) 8.8](#)).

## AIRWAY AND BREATHING

- 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.
  - Assess lung sounds and chest.

## CIRCULATION ASSESSMENT

- Assess patient's circulation including pulse, skin signs and capillary refill time.
- Control serious bleeding using direct pressure, pressure bandages, tourniquets, or hemostatic bandages. See [Tourniquet & Hemostatic Agent Procedure – Adult & Pediatric 6.11](#).

## DISABILITY ASSESSMENT

- Assess level of consciousness appropriate for age.
- Utilize spinal motion restriction if patient has a mechanism of injury that could cause a spinal injury. See [Spinal Motion Restriction Procedure 4.5](#).

## 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.



Protocol Continues

### SECONDARY/FOCUSED ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT (CONTINUED)

- 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).
- Perform basic splinting as indicated.

### MAJOR MULTIPLE SYSTEM TRAUMA

- See [Traumatic Emergencies Protocol 4.10](#).

### 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
- Other Skills
  - Anaphylaxis: May assist patient with use of patient's own epinephrine auto injector.
  - Burn Care (See [Burns/Electrocution/Lightning Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 4.0](#).)
  - Childbirth (See [Obstetrical Emergencies Protocol 2.17](#))
  - Cold / Hot Pack (See [Musculoskeletal Injuries Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 4.4](#).)
  - Cervical Spine Stabilization – Manual Stabilization Only
  - Cervical and Spinal Motion Restriction (*if trained*) – (See [Advanced Spinal Assessment Procedure 6.0](#).)
  - Extremity Hemorrhage (See [Tourniquet & Hemostatic Agent Procedure – Adult & Pediatric 6.11](#).)
  - Nerve Agent Autoinjectors (See [Nerve Agent/Organophosphate Poisoning Protocol – Adult 2.13A](#) or [Nerve Agent/Organophosphate Poisoning Protocol – Pediatric 2.13P](#).)
  - Splinting (*if trained*) (See [Musculoskeletal Injuries Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 4.4](#).)
  - Wound Care (See [Musculoskeletal Injuries Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 4.4](#).)

Protocol Continues



# 1.1 EMR Routine Patient Care



## 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 EtCO<sub>2</sub>, 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"> <li>Able to maintain adequate oxygenation by using extra effort to move air.</li> <li>Symptoms include increased respiratory rate, sniffing position, nasal flaring, abnormal breath sounds, head bobbing, intercostal retractions, mild tachycardia.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hallmarks of respiratory failure are respiratory rate less than 20 breaths per minute for children &lt;6 years old; less than 12 breaths per minute for children &lt;16 years old; and &gt;60 breaths per minutes for any child; cyanosis, marked tachycardia or bradycardia, poor peripheral perfusion, decreased muscle tone, mottling, and depressed mental status.</li> </ul>



### 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	> 25	< 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.**



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

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# Abdominal Pain (Non Traumatic) – 2.0A Adult

## EMT STANDING ORDERS

# E

- Routine Patient Care..
- 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  $\geq 40$ .
- 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 2.12](#).
- If patient is hypotensive, see [Shock Protocol – Adult 2.22A](#).
- Contact **Medical Direction** for additional fluid orders.



## PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

# P

- See [Pain Management Protocol – Adult 2.18A](#).
- 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, 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.
- 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 2.22P](#).
- Contact **Medical Direction** for additional fluid orders.



## PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

# P

- See [Pain Management Protocol – Pediatric 2.18P](#).
- See [Nausea/Vomiting Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 2.12](#).

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, 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

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

### PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDER – ADULT & PEDIATRIC

# P



- Administer stress dose glucocorticoid 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 glucocorticoid 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 2.22A](#) or [Shock Protocol – Pediatric 2.22P](#).
  - 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 a glucocorticoid.

#### PEARLS:

A “stress dose” of glucocorticoid 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.



- To administer Epinephrine via syringe, EMTs must be credentialed through the Ready-Check-Inject Program.

## 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).



- **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, any airway structures, throat tightness or difficulty/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 2.22A](#).
- 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.



- To administer Epinephrine via syringe, EMTs must be credentialed through the Ready-Check-Inject Program.

### 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 mg/kg PO. May repeat every 4 – 6 hours as needed (maximum dose of 50 mg).



- **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, any airway structures, throat tightness or difficulty/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 2.22P](#).
- 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 as appropriate with a target of achieving 94 – 98% saturation.
- Assist inadequate ventilations with BVM (bag-valve-mask ventilation). If respiratory arrest, manage airway with OPA/NPA and maintain oxygenation and 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.
- Consider acquiring and transmitting 12-lead ECG if available.
- If trauma can be excluded, transport patient in the coma/recovery position. If trauma suspected, see [Advanced Spinal Assessment Procedure 6.0](#).
- Perform stroke assessment. Refer to [Stroke Protocol – Adult 2.24](#) as indicated.
- See [Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose – Adult 2.19A](#).
- 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 6.7](#).
  - 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](#).
- 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 2.19A](#).
- If hypotension persists after 2 liter fluid bolus, consider vasopressors. See [Shock Protocol – Adult 2.22A](#).
- 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 as appropriate with a target of achieving 94 – 98% saturation.
- Assist inadequate ventilations with BVM (bag-valve-mask ventilation). If respiratory arrest, manage airway with OPA/NPA and maintain oxygenation and 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 dose 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 Procedure 6.0](#).
- See [Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose – Pediatric 2.19P](#).
- 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, maximum dose 2 mg.
  - Consider restraint. See [Restraints Procedure 6.9](#).
  - If no response, may repeat initial dose every 3 – 5 minutes to a total of 12 mg.
- Advanced airway as indicated.
- If hypotensive per age-based tables, administer fluid bolus 20 mL/kg 0.9% NaCl IV/IO. May repeat x 2.
  - 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 2.19P](#).
- If hypotension persists after 60 mL/kg fluid bolus, consider vasopressors, see [Shock Protocol – Pediatric 2.22P](#).
- 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.
- Administer oxygen as appropriate with a target of achieving 94 – 98% saturation (88 - 92% in COPD); increase the oxygen rate with caution and observe for fatigue, decreased mentation, and respiratory failure.
- Consider:
  - Albuterol metered-dose inhaler (MDI) 2-4 puffs (with spacer, if available). May repeat every 5 minutes for continued symptoms; **OR**
  - 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.
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.
- In a respiratory pandemic situation: Consider use of MDIs preferentially to nebulized medications if patient tolerates. To conserve MDIs, use patient's own MDI, if available, and transport for use in hospital.

### ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

# A

- 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 H<sub>2</sub>O pressure support. 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.
- Administer oxygen as appropriate with a target of achieving 94 – 98% saturation.
- For patients  $\leq 2$  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 – EMT STANDING ORDERS

**E**

- Consider:
  - Albuterol metered-dose inhaler (MDI) 2-4 puffs (with spacer, if available). May repeat every 5 minutes for continued symptoms; **OR**
  - 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**
  - Albuterol 2.5 mg via nebulizer every 5 minutes.
- In a respiratory pandemic situation: Consider use of MDIs preferentially to nebulized medications if patient tolerates. To conserve MDIs, use patient's own MDI, if available, and transport for use in hospital.

### ASTHMA – ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

**A**

- 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 D<sub>5</sub>W over 20 minutes. (maximum single dose 2 grams).

### BRONCHIOLITIS – PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

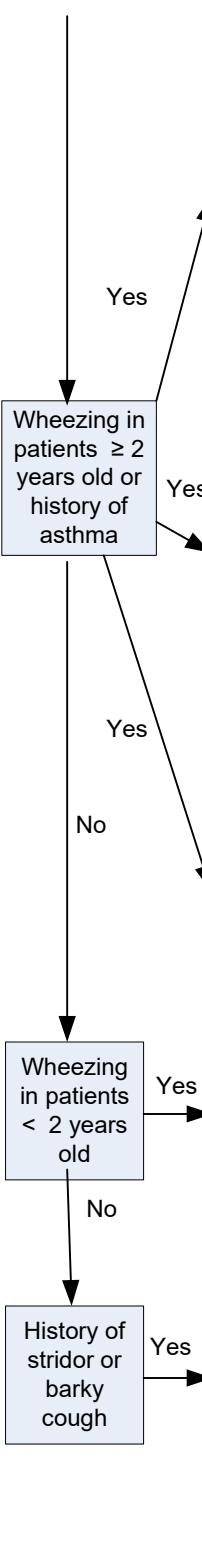
**P**

- 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) diluted to 3 mL 0.9% NaCl via nebulizer.
  - Contact **Medical Direction** for additional dosing.
- Consider high-flow nasal cannula, if available.

### 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) diluted to 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



← Procedure Continued

## CONSIDER DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS:

- Asthma
- Pneumonia (See [CPAP Protocol 5.3](#) for respiratory failure)
- Bronchiolitis
- Anaphylaxis (See [Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis Protocol 2.2P.](#))
- Croup
- Sepsis (See [Septic Shock Protocol – Pediatric 2.20P.](#))
- Foreign body airway obstruction (See [Foreign-Body Obstruction Procedure 5.4.](#))



- 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.

## PEARLS

- The IV formulation of dexamethasone may be given by mouth.

### Epiglottitis

- A potentially life-threatening swelling of the supraglottic structures, which may result in sudden, complete upper airway obstruction.
- Signs and symptoms include severe sore throat, difficulty breathing, which may improve when leaning forward, stridor, and a high temperature (fever).
- 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:

- < 1 year: > 60 bpm
- 1 – 4 years: > 40 bpm
- 5 – 13: > 30 bpm
- > 13 years: > 16 bpm



# Behavioral Emergencies 2.5

## Including Suicide Attempts & Threats



E/  
A/  
P

### EMT/ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS – ADULT & PEDIATRIC

- Routine Patient Care.
- Approach patient using the SAFER Model.
- Observe and record the patient's behavior.
- Consider associated domestic violence or child abuse, see [Victims of Violence Policy 8.21](#).
- 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 6.9](#).
  - Treat hyperthermia. See [Hyperthermia \(Environmental\) Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 2.10](#).
  - 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. Refer to [Restraint Procedure 6.7](#).
- 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.
- Should it appear that the patient will not be transported, contact **Medical Direction**.

#### 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 / traumatic 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) - Pediatric



### 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 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 with 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 2.12](#).

## 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 with 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). Treatment is the same in the field as it is for DKA.
- 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 with 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 with 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). Treatment is the same in the field as it is for DKA.
- 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 with 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 IM. Recheck glucose 15 minutes after administration of glucagon.
  - May repeat glucagon 1 mg IM if glucose level is < 60 mg/dl with continued altered mental status.

Medical Protocol 2.8A



**AEMT/Paramedic: If patient has a severe hypoglycemic emergency with altered mental status or seizures and the provider is unable to establish IV access, the provider may administer dextrose via intraosseous (IO). See [Intraosseous Access Procedure 6.6](#).**



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  $\geq$  60 mg/dl. Often only 100 – 200 mL 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.
- Sulfonylurea (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 IM. 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)	70
97.5 – 110	15 to 18	White (3 – 4 years)	80
110 – 122	19 to 22	Blue (5 – 6 years)	100
122 – 137	23 to 29	Orange (7 – 9 years)	135
137 – 150	30 to 36	Green (10 – 12 years)	180



**AEMT/Paramedic: If patient has a severe hypoglycemic emergency with altered mental status or seizures and the provider is unable to establish IV access, the provider may administer dextrose 10% via intraosseous (IO). See [Intraosseous Access Procedure 6.6](#).**

### 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.



## EMT/ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

Exertional Heat Stroke (EHS) is a unique and emergent hyperthermic condition that occurs in individuals performing intense physical activity, typically not limited to warm environments.

### INDICATION

Consider EHS in any intensely-exercising athlete, laborer, fire, police or EMS personnel with altered mental status.

### PROTOCOL

1. Perform rapid routine assessment (<5 minutes). Assess for other causes of AMS, including but not limited to hypoxia, hypoglycemia, inadequate perfusion, head injury or seizure.
2. Consider EHS in any intensely-exercising athlete, laborer, fire, police or EMS personnel with altered mental status.
3. If EHS has been confirmed and appropriate cooling has been initiated by an appropriate onsite medical team, athletic trainer, coach, or instructor, DO NOT interrupt cooling for assessment or transport.
4. If care has not been initiated and EHS is suspected, immediately perform a rectal temperature ( $T_{REC}$ ).
5. If  $T_{REC}$  is at or above  $40^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $104^{\circ}\text{F}$ ), initiate immediate rapid cooling to a temperature less than  $40^{\circ}\text{C}$  within 30 minutes of collapse.
  - a. Best practice for cooling an EHS patient is whole-body cold water immersion from the neck down.
  - b. Immersion in ice water-filled body bag or tarp may also yield acceptable cooling rates.
  - c. Ice packs, fans, cold water dousing or shower do not achieve acceptable cooling rates. Rotating ice water towels covering as much of the body surface area as possible should be considered a minimum cooling modality enroute.
6. Discontinue cooling at  $39^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $102^{\circ}\text{F}$ ). If a  $T_{REC}$  is not available, cooling should not be interrupted or delayed in cases of suspected EHS. Cool for a minimum of 20 minutes / clinical improvement if resources available on scene, or transport with best available active cooling method (body bag with ice water or rotating ice water-soaked towels).
7. Do not interrupt cooling for diarrhea, emesis, combativeness, or seizures. IV/IM medications are rarely needed.
8. Transport to closest receiving facility and notify that EHS is suspected.

E/  
A/  
P



- For events with medical personnel and cooling means on-site, the only appropriate standard is to cool the EHS patient in place. Transportation of an EHS patient should only be done if it is impossible to adequately cool the patient, or after adequate cooling has been verified by a rectal temperature.
- The only accurate or acceptable body temperature measurement in exercising individuals is a rectal temperature ( $T_{REC}$ ).
- EMS must ensure early pre-notification to hospitals if they will be receiving an inadequately-cooled EHS patient, or suspect EHS in a scenario where treatment has not been initiated.



# 2.10 Hyperthermia (Environmental) – Adult & Pediatric

## EMT STANDING ORDERS – ADULT & PEDIATRIC

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Consider exertional heat stroke in any intensely-exercising athlete, laborer, fire, police or EMS personnel, etc. with altered mental status. See [Exertional Heat Stroke Protocol 2.9](#).
- 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.
- Monitor and record vital signs and level of consciousness. If altered mental status, check blood glucose level.
- Determine patient's core temperature, if possible (rectal temperature preferred). If thermometer not available, assume heat stroke if altered mental status present. Diagnosis of hyperthermia is based on clinical signs.
- If temperature is  $\geq 40^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $104^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) or if altered mental status is present, begin active cooling by:
  - Whole-body cold water immersion from the neck down. **Note:** Elderly patients are less able to withstand sudden shocks, so begin with less aggressive cooling measures like misting or cool wet cloths. When you reassess the patient, if there is little or no improvement, use more aggressive measures.
  - Continually misting the exposed skin with tepid water while fanning patient.
  - Rotating ice water towels covering as much of the body surface area as possible.
- Discontinue active cooling if shivering occurs that cannot be managed by Paramedics (see below) or temperature is  $< 38.9^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $102^{\circ}\text{F}$ ).
- 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 room temperature or chilled 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 room temperature or chilled IV fluid bolus for dehydration even if vital signs are normal.
- If uncontrolled shivering occurs during cooling:
  - Midazolam 0.1 mg/kg IV (single maximum dose 1 mg) **OR** 0.2 mg/kg intranasal/IM. (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).



Protocol Continues

# Hyperthermia (Environmental) – Adult & Pediatric

2.10

Protocol Continues

## Hyperthermia:

- PO (oral) 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 2.21A](#), [Septic Shock Protocol - Pediatric 2.21P](#), [Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose Protocol – Adult 2.19A](#) or [Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose Protocol – Pediatric 2.19P](#). 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 [Rehabilitation – Scene and Training Guidelines for EMS 8.16](#), [Exertional Heat Stroke Protocol 2.9](#).
- Note for Paramedics: Benzodiazepine doses for stopping shivering are lower than those for stopping seizures by approximately half.

Medical Protocol 2.10

# 2.11 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  $< 35^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $95^{\circ}\text{F}$ ).

## 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  $24^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $75.2^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) 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  $32^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $90^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) 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  $32^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $90^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) 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 (MAP  $< 65$  (systolic blood pressure  $< 90$  mm Hg) or ventricular arrhythmias, core temperature  $< 28^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $82^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) 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  $40^{\circ}\text{C}$  -  $42^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $104^{\circ}\text{F}$  –  $107.6^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) 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  $30^{\circ}\text{C}$  or above. From  $30 - 35^{\circ}\text{C}$ , increase dosing interval to twice as long as normal. Consider epinephrine (**1:10,000**) (**0.1 mg/mL**) 1 mg IV/IO, up to 3 doses.
  - Contact **Medical Direction** for guidance.



Protocol Continues

# Hypothermia (Environmental) – 2.11

## 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. 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 in 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/IV/IM. 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.
- Do not administer Ondansetron if patient has known, prolonged QT on ECG.



### 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
- Auto-injectors consist of atropine and pralidoxime and are often referred to as DuoDote or Mark I kits.

Determine dosing according to the following symptom assessment and guidelines.

Category	Description/Examples	Autoinjector Dose
<b>Mild</b>	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
<b>Worsening</b>	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.
<b>Severe</b>	If <b>ANY</b> 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 to 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 to 100 mL of 0.9% NaCl.
  - Infuse 1 gram over 15-30 minutes, followed by a continuous infusion at 500 mg/hr, to a 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)		400 mg IM	
137 to 150	30 to 40	Green (10 - 12 years)	1 mg IM	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) to 100 mL of 0.9% NaCl.
  - Infuse entire volume over 15 – 30 minutes.





## EMT/ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

- For newborns requiring resuscitation, see [Newborn Resuscitation Protocol 2.15](#).
- 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 2.15](#).
- 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 2.15](#).
- 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 2.15](#).
  - 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 Policy 8.13](#).

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	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 2.14](#).
- 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 mmHg.
- 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 EtCO<sub>2</sub> 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 – 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 2.14](#). For newborns requiring resuscitation, see [Newborn Resuscitation Protocol 2.15](#).
- 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.

## PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

- After delivery of all placenta(s):
  - Oxytocin 10 Units IM
    - In multiple pregnancy, do not give until all placentas are delivered.

### 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.

# 2.17 Obstetrical Emergencies



## Recognition:

- 3rd trimester bleeding: vaginal bleeding occurring  $\geq$  28 weeks of gestation.
- Preterm labor: onset of labor/contractions prior to the 37th week of gestation
- Malpresentation: presentation of the fetal buttocks or limbs.
- Prolapsed umbilical cord: umbilical cord precedes the fetus.
- Shoulder dystocia: failure of the fetal shoulder to deliver shortly after delivery of the head.
- Postpartum hemorrhage: active bleeding after uterine massage and oxytocin administration.
- Pre-eclampsia/Eclampsia: BP > 160/100, severe headache, visual disturbances, edema, RUQ pain, seizures

## EMR & EMT STANDING ORDERS

- Routine Patient Care
- Do not delay transport for patients with obstetrical emergencies, provide early notification to the receiving facility.
- If gestational age is known to be < 20 weeks, transport to closest hospital.
- If gestational age is known to be > 20 weeks or fundus is palpable at or above the umbilicus, contact **Medical Direction** regarding destination determination.



# E

### For third trimester bleeding

- Suspect placenta previa (placenta is implanted in the lower uterine segment)
- Suspect placental abruption (placenta is separated from the uterine wall before delivery); because hemorrhage may occur into the pelvic cavity, shock can develop despite relatively little vaginal bleeding.
- Do not perform digital examination
- Place patient in the left lateral position
- Monitor hemodynamic stability (see [Shock Protocol – Adult 2.22A](#))

### For breech birth (presentation of buttock):

- Do not pull on newborn. Support newborn and allow delivery to proceed normally.
- If the legs have delivered, gently elevate the trunk and legs to aid delivery of the head.
- If the head is not delivered within 30 seconds of the legs, place two fingers into the vagina to locate the infant's mouth. Press the vaginal wall away from the infant's mouth to maintain the fetal airway.

### For limb presentation:

- Place mother in knee-chest or Trendelenberg position.
- Do not attempt delivery; transport emergently as surgery is likely.

### For prolapsed cord:

- Discourage pushing by the mother
- Place mother in knee-chest or Trendelenberg position.
- Place a gloved hand into the mother's vagina and decompress the umbilical cord by elevating the presenting fetal part off of the cord.
- Wrap cord in warm, sterile saline soaked dressing.

### For shoulder dystocia:

- Suspect if newborn's head delivers normally and then retracts back into perineum because shoulders are trapped.
- Discourage pushing by the mother
- Support the baby's head, do not pull on it.
- Suction the nasopharynx and oropharynx, as needed
- Position mother with buttocks dropped off end of stretcher and thighs flexed upward (McRobert's position). Apply firm pressure with an open hand immediately above pubic symphysis (McRobert's maneuver).
- If the above method is unsuccessful, consider rolling the patient to the all-fours position.

Policy Continues



Policy Continued

## EMR & EMT STANDING ORDERS

# E

### For postpartum hemorrhage:

- Vigorously massage fundus until uterus is firm.
- If possible, initiate breast feeding

### For cardiac arrest in the pregnant patient (regardless of etiology)

- See [Cardiac Arrest Protocol – Adult 3.2A](#)
- For patient ≥ 20 week gestation or if the fundus is palpable at or above the level of the umbilicus, apply left lateral uterine displacement (LUD) with the patient in the supine position to decrease aortocaval compression. LUD should be maintained during CPR. If ROSC is achieved, the patient should be placed in the left lateral position.
- Transport to nearest emergency department.

## ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

# A

- Establish IV access above the diaphragm.
- For preterm labor:
  - 20 mL/kg 0.9% NaCl, may repeat once

## PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

# P

- After delivery of placenta(s):
  - Oxytocin 10 Units IM **OR** oxytocin 20 Units in 1,000 mL 0.9% NaCl, bolus first 500 mL then infuse remainder at 200 mL/hour.
  - Note: In multiple pregnancy, do not give until all placentas are delivered.
- Continued hemorrhage after uterine massage and oxytocin administration, see [Tranexamic Acid \(TXA\) Protocol – Adult 4.7](#) and consider Tranexamic Acid (TXA):
  - Mix 1 gram of TXA in 100 ml of 0.9% NaCl or LR; infuse via wide open IV/IO bolus over approximately 10 minutes.
  - Notify receiving facility of TXA administration prior to arriving.

### PEARL:

The amount of bleeding is difficult to estimate. Menstrual pad holds between 5 – 15 mL depending on type of pad. Maternity pad holds 100 mL when completely saturated. Chux pad holds 500 mL. Estimate the amount of bleeding by number of saturated pads in last 6 hours. Consider transporting the soiled linen to the hospital to help estimate blood loss.

## PRE-ECLAMPSIA / ECLAMPSIA

Pre-eclampsia/Eclampsia is most commonly seen in the last 10 weeks of gestation, during labor, or up to 48 hours post-partum. It also may occur up to several weeks post-partum.

## EMT/ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

# E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Ensure quiet environment / dim lights / limited use of siren.
- If pregnant, place patient in left lateral recumbent position.

## ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

# A

- Establish vascular access.

## PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

# P

- For patients in the third trimester of pregnancy or postpartum who are seizing or who are post-ictal, consider:
- Magnesium sulfate, 4 grams in 10 mL D5W or 0.9% NaCl slow IV push over 5 minutes. See [Seizures Protocol – Adult 2.20A](#).



# 2.18A 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

- Establish IV access.
  - Consider the following for pain control:
    - Acetaminophen 1000 mg IV
    - Nitrous oxide:
      - Appropriate for patients with pain from isolated extremity injuries (suspected fractures) or global soft tissue injuries (e.g., burns or road rash).
  - 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.
  - The patient must be able to self-administer this medication.

## PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

# P

- For mild or moderate pain, consider 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, SpO<sub>2</sub> < 90% on 15L O<sub>2</sub>, 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: (next page)



Policy Continues 

# Pain Management – Adult 2.18A

Policy Continued

## PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

# P

- Ketamine:
  - 0.25 mg/kg IV infusion (in 50 – 100 mL bag 0.9% NaCl **over 10 minutes.**) May be administered via bolus. (Consider lower 0.15 mg/kg IV dose for frail or elderly patients.) **OR**
  - 0.5 mg/kg IM/IN.
  - May repeat ketamine dose every 15 – 20 minutes to a total of 1 mg/kg. Contact **Medical Direction** for additional dosing.

**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 Protocol 2.12](#).
- **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.

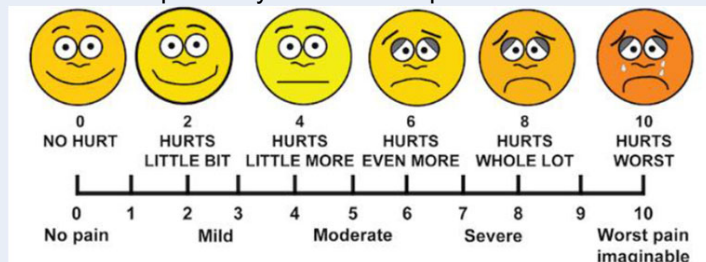
- Medications should be administered cautiously in frail, debilitated, or patients over 65 years of age; lower doses should be considered.
- Use caution for altered mental status, hypoventilation, hypotension, or allergy.

- 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.

### 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.



# 2.18P 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  $\geq 4$ ), if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.

## ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

# A

- Establish IV access.
- Acetaminophen 15 mg/kg IV/PO (maximum 1000 mg).
- Consider nitrous oxide:
  - Appropriate for patients age  $\geq 9$  years with pain from isolated extremity injuries (suspected fractures) or global soft tissue injuries (e.g., 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

## PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

# P

- Assess patient for contraindications: GCS  $< 15$  or mentation not appropriate for age, hypotension, SpO<sub>2</sub>  $< 90\%$  on 15L O<sub>2</sub>, 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 **AND/OR**
  - Ketamine 0.25 mg/kg IV infusion (in 50-100 mL bag 0.9% NaCl **over 10 minutes**) or 0.5 mg/kg IM/IN. May be administered via bolus.
    - May repeat ketamine dose every 15 – 20 minutes to a total of 1 mg/kg. Contact **Medical Direction** for additional dosing.
  - Reassess patient every 5 minutes. If no contraindications and patient still in moderate to severe pain may redose fentanyl or morphine 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.

Protocol Continues



# Pain Management – Pediatric 2.18P



**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.

**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.
- Assist inadequate ventilations with BVM (bag-valve-mask) ventilation.
- If patient is in cardiac arrest, begin immediate chest compressions (See [Cardiac Arrest Protocol – Adult 3.2A.](#))
- 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 CO toxicity or isolated cyanide poisoning, apply 100% non-rebreather oxygen. See [Smoke Inhalation Protocol - Adult 2.23A.](#)
- 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 2.20A.](#)
- Acquire and transmit 12-lead ECG if available.
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.
- Consider contacting Poison Control at (800) 222-1222 as soon as practical for consultation.

## 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 Procedure 6.7.](#)
  - 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 2.13A.](#)
- 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.

Protocol Continues 

# Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose – Adult

2.19A

Protocol Continued



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.

## 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.
- **Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning:** A colorless, odorless gas causing headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, mental changes, seizure, coma, death.
- **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 2.13A](#)
- **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.
- Assist inadequate ventilations with BVM (bag-valve-mask) ventilation.
- If patient is in cardiac arrest, begin immediate chest compressions (See [Cardiac Arrest Protocol – Pediatric 3.2P.](#))
- 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 CO toxicity or isolated cyanide poisoning, apply 100% non-rebreather oxygen. See [Smoke Inhalation Protocol - Pediatric 2.23P.](#)
- 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 2.20P.](#)
- Call for Paramedic intercept if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.
- Consider contacting Poison Control at (800) 222-1222 as soon as practical for consultation.



## 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 Procedure 6.7.](#)
  - 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

### Suggested Treatments

# P

- 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 2.13P.](#)
- Tricyclic with symptomatic dysrhythmias, (e.g., tachycardia and wide QRS > 110 ms):
  - Sodium bicarbonate 1 to 2 mEq/kg IV.

Protocol Continues





# Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose – Pediatric

## 2.19P

Protocol Continued



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.

### 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.
- **Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning:** A colorless, odorless gas causing headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, mental changes, seizure, coma, death.
- **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 2.13P](#).
- **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 2.19P



## 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, 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, 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.**

## 2.21A

# Septic Shock – Adult

### 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
  - ETCO<sub>2</sub> < 25 mmHg

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



### EMT STANDING ORDERS

# E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Administer oxygen as appropriate with a target of achieving 94 – 98% saturation.
- 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/IO access. Do not delay transport to start IV/IO.
- Rapidly administer 0.9% NaCl up to 30 mL/kg bolus to maintain MAP ≥ 65 (systolic blood pressure ≥ 90 mmHg).
- Reassess patient after each 500 mL administration, with special attention given to lung examination to ensure volume overload does not occur.

### PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

# P

- Obtain serum lactate level (if available and trained)
- While initial fluid is infusing, prepare norepinephrine infusion. If there is no response after 1,000 mL IV fluid infused, administer:
  - Norepinephrine 1 – 30 mcg/min IV/IO via pump (preferred 1<sup>st</sup> line agent).
    - Consider push dose epinephrine (10 mcg/mL) for short transport times or as bridge to infusion. Prepare 10 mcg/mL by adding 1 mL 0.1 mg/mL epinephrine to 9 mL normal saline, then administer 10 – 20 mcg boluses (1 – 2 mL) every 2 minutes (where feasible, switch to infusion as soon as practical).
  - If inadequate response to norepinephrine, consider adding second agent:
    - Epinephrine infusion 2 – 10 mcg/min infusion via pump IV/IO.
  - Continue fluid administration concurrently with pressor administration. Titrate to MAP ≥ 65 (systolic bp ≥ 90).

### PEARLS:

- Sepsis is a systemic inflammatory response 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.
- IV fluid administration and early antibiotics reduces mortality in septic patients.
- Notifying Emergency Departments of patients with possible septic shock may improve outcomes.
- When administering vasopressors, monitor IV site for signs of extravasation.

## Identification of Possible Sepsis:

- Suspected infection – YES
- Temperature < 36 °C or > 38.3°C (< 96.8°F or > 101°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 ETCO<sub>2</sub> < 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 as appropriate with a target of achieving 94 – 98% saturation.
- 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/IO access. Do not delay transport to start IV/IO.
- 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 after 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 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"> <li>• Obtain and transmit ECG.</li> <li>• If CHF is suspected refer to <a href="#">Congestive Heart Failure (Pulmonary Edema) Protocol 3.3</a>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If patient has history of adrenal insufficiency refer to <a href="#">Adrenal Insufficiency Protocol 2.1</a>.</li> <li>• If anaphylaxis is suspected refer to <a href="#">Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis Protocol 2.2A</a>.</li> <li>• If septic shock is suspected refer to <a href="#">Septic Shock Protocol 2.21A</a>.</li> <li>• If neurogenic shock is suspected, consider spinal motion restriction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Control severe bleeding using direct pressure, pressure bandages, tourniquets (commercial tourniquets preferred), or hemostatic bandage.</li> <li>• Refer to <a href="#">Tourniquet &amp; Hemostatic Agent Procedure 6.11</a>.</li> </ul>	

### ADVANCED EMT - STANDING ORDERS

- Establish IV/IO access.
- 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.
  - MAP < 65 (systolic blood pressure is < 90 mmHg)

# A



Assess for signs of pulmonary edema and consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish IV 0.9% NaCl to keep vein open.</li> <li>• Contact <b>Medical Direction</b> to consider 0.9% NaCl fluid bolus.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapidly administer 0.9% NaCl up to 30 mL/kg bolus to maintain MAP ≥ 65 (systolic blood pressure ≥ 90 mmHg). Contact <b>Medical Direction</b> after the first 1,000 mL.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administer 0.9% NaCl to maintain mental status and peripheral perfusion and to maintain MAP ≥ 65 (systolic blood pressure ≥ 90 mmHg) in 250 mL boluses. Total volume should not exceed 2,000 mL. Contact <b>Medical Direction</b> after first 1,000 mL.</li> </ul>	
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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"> <li>Norepinephrine infusion 1 – 30 mcg/min (preferred agent) <b>OR</b></li> <li>Epinephrine infusion 2 – 10 mcg/min titrated to effect <b>OR</b></li> <li>Consider push dose epinephrine (10mcg/mL) for short transport times or as bridge to infusion. Administer 10 – 20 mcg boluses (1 – 2 mL) every 2 minutes.</li> </ul> <p>Consider additional 250 mL 0.9% NaCl fluid bolus.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Norepinephrine 1 - 30 mcg/min (preferred agent) <b>OR</b></li> <li>Epinephrine infusion 2 – 10 mcg/min titrated to effect <b>OR</b></li> <li>Consider push dose epinephrine (10mcg/mL) for short transport times or as bridge to infusion. Administer 10 – 20 mcg boluses (1 – 2 mL) every 2 minutes.</li> <li>For patient with history of adrenal insufficiency, administer stress dose of hydrocortisone 100 mg IV/IO/IM (preferred) or other injectable steroid.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If tension pneumothorax suspected, see <a href="#">Needle Decompression Thoracostomy (NDT) Procedure 6.8</a>.</li> </ul>

## 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 2.21A](#). 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

<u>CARDIOGENIC SHOCK</u>	<u>DISTRIBUTIVE SHOCK</u>	<u>HYPOVOLEMIC SHOCK</u>	<u>OBSTRUCTIVE SHOCK</u>
	<p>If patient has history of adrenal insufficiency refer to <a href="#">Adrenal Insufficiency Protocol – 2.1</a>.</p> <p>If anaphylaxis is suspected refer to <a href="#">Allergic Reaction/ Anaphylaxis Protocol – Pediatric 2.2P</a>.</p> <p>If septic shock is suspected, refer to <a href="#">Septic Shock Protocol – Pediatric 2.21P</a>.</p> <p>If neurogenic shock is suspected, consider spinal motion restriction.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Control severe bleeding using direct pressure, pressure bandages, tourniquets (commercial tourniquets preferred), or hemostatic bandage.</li> <li>• Refer to <a href="#">Tourniquet &amp; Hemostatic Agent Procedure 6.11</a>.</li> </ul>	

**ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS**

A



<p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish IV 0.9% NaCl to keep vein open.</li> <li>• Contact <b>Medical Direction</b> to consider 0.9% NaCl in 10 mL/kg bolus over &lt; 15 min and repeat as tolerated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administer 0.9% NaCl in 20 mL/kg bolus over &lt; 15 min to improve clinical condition. May repeat to a max of 60 mL/kg. Contact <b>Medical Direction</b> when possible.</li> <li>• Therapeutic endpoints (in order of importance) are:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Normal mental status,</li> <li>○ Capillary refill,</li> <li>○ Normal pulses and heart rate,</li> <li>○ No difference between peripheral and central pulses,</li> <li>○ Warm extremities, and</li> <li>○ THEN normal blood pressure, see <a href="#">Pediatric Color Coded Appendix A2</a>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administer 0.9% NaCl in 20 mL/kg bolus over &lt; 15 min to improve clinical condition. May repeat to a maximum 60 mL/kg. Contact <b>Medical Direction</b> when possible.</li> <li>• Therapeutic endpoints (in order of importance) are:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Normal mental status,</li> <li>○ Capillary refill,</li> <li>○ Normal pulses and heart rate,</li> <li>○ No difference between peripheral and central pulses,</li> <li>○ Warm extremities, and</li> <li>○ THEN normal blood pressure, see, <a href="#">Pediatric Color Coded Appendix A2</a>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
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# Shock – Pediatric

## 2.22P

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, see [Needle Decompression Thorocostomy \(NDT\) Procedure 6.8](#).

### 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 2.21P](#). 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.

# Smoke Inhalation/Carbon Monoxide Poisoning – Adult

## EMT STANDING ORDERS

**E**

- Routine Patient Care. Remove patient from toxic environment.
- Oxygen 100% via non-rebreather mask or BVM.
- Decontamination concurrent with initial resuscitation.
- If a CO oximeter is available, consider obtaining carbon monoxide levels.
- If a measuring device is available, obtain atmospheric levels of CO and cyanide (CN). Consider use on “first-in” bags to assist in detection of occult CO toxicity.
- Acquire and transmit 12-lead ECG if available.
- If wheezing, consider albuterol 2.5 mg via nebulizer. May repeat every 5 minutes for continued symptoms.
- If altered mental status, check finger stick glucose by glucometer.
- See [Burn/Electrocution/Lightning Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 4.0](#).
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.

## ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

**A**

- Establish IV access
- Consider CPAP for respiratory distress. See [Continuous Positive Airway Pressure \(CPAP\) Protocol – 5.3](#).

## 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.

Percent CO in Blood	Typical Symptoms
<10	None
10-20	Slight headache
21-30	Headache, slight increase in respirations, drowsiness
31-40	Headache, impaired judgment, shortness of breath, increasing drowsiness, blurring of vision
41-50	Pounding headache, confusion, marked shortness of breath, marked drowsiness, increasing blurred vision
>51	Unconsciousness, eventual death if victim is not removed from source of CO

### PEARLS:

- Smoke is a combination of many dangerous toxins produced by incomplete combustion. Patients exposed to smoke should be considered for carbon monoxide (CO) and hydrogen cyanide (HCN) poisoning.



# Smoke Inhalation/Carbon Monoxide Poisoning – Pediatric 2.23P

Medical Protocol 2.23P

## EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care. Remove patient from toxic environment.
- Oxygen 100% via non-rebreather mask or BVM.
- Decontamination concurrent with initial resuscitation.
- If a CO oximeter is available, consider obtaining carbon monoxide levels.
- If a measuring device is available, obtain atmospheric levels of CO and cyanide (CN). Consider use on “first-in” bags to assist in detection of occult CO toxicity.
- If wheezing, consider albuterol 2.5 mg via nebulizer. May repeat every 5 minutes for continued symptoms.
- If altered mental status, check finger stick glucose by glucometer.
- See [Burn/Electrocution/Lightning Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 4.0](#).
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.

## ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- Establish IV access
- Consider CPAP for respiratory distress. See [Continuous Positive Airway Pressure \(CPAP\) Protocol – 5.3](#).

## 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/kg 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.

Percent CO in Blood	Typical Symptoms
<10	None
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41-50	Pounding headache, confusion, marked shortness of breath, marked drowsiness, increasing blurred vision
>51	Unconsciousness, eventual death if victim is not removed from source of CO

### PEARLS:

- Smoke is a combination of many dangerous toxins produced by incomplete combustion. Patients exposed to smoke should be considered for carbon monoxide (CO) and hydrogen cyanide (HCN) poisoning.





- SUSPECT STROKE:** with any of the following new or sudden symptoms and/or complaints:
- Unilateral motor weakness or paralysis to face, limb or side of body, including facial droop
  - Unilateral numbness
  - Dizziness/vertigo
  - Acute visual disturbance, loss of vision in one eye or one side of vision
  - Difficulty with balance or uncoordinated movements of a limb, gait disturbance
  - Difficulty with speech understanding or production (slurred or inappropriate use of words)
  - Severe headache for no obvious reason
  - Altered mental state

**EMT STANDING ORDERS**

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Complete the Prehospital Stroke Screening Tool
  - If Prehospital Stroke screen is positive, complete stroke severity score (e.g., FAST-ED) to determine probability of a large vessel occlusion (LVO). May use paper form or approved app.
- Establish Stroke Alert Criteria and notify receiving hospital of “Stroke Alert” with findings from the screening tools, thrombolytic checklist and time last known well (TLKW).
- For symptomatic:
  - Administer oxygen as appropriate with a target of achieving 94 – 98% saturation.
  - 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](#).
  - Rapid transport to the most appropriate facility based on the destination guidance utilizing your local stroke plan.

**AEMT & PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS**

A/P

- Establish IV (18 gauge catheter & right AC preferred site) and administer 250 mL 0.9% NaCl bolus.

**Prehospital Stroke Screening Tool**

**Stroke screen is positive if any abnormal finding in facial droop, arm drift or speech.**

**Time Last Known Well:**  (If patient awoke with symptoms, time last known to be at baseline)

**Witness:** Best contact number for witness: (  ) -

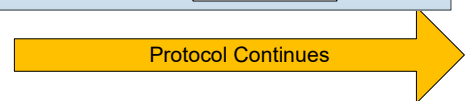
**Prehospital Stroke Scale Examination** Please check: Normal Abnormal

**Facial Droop:** Have the patient smile and show teeth.  
Normal: Both sides of the face move equally well..  Normal  Abnormal  
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 for 10 seconds.  
Normal: Both arms move the same, or both arms don't move at all.  Normal  Abnormal  
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.  Normal  Abnormal  
Abnormal: Patient slurs words, says the wrong word, or is unable to speak.

**Blood Glucose:**





# Stroke – Adult Northern New England Unified Guideline

# 2.24

Protocol Continued



If stroke screening scale is positive calculate stroke severity score using FAST-ED

Stroke Severity Score (FAST-ED)		
A FAST-ED greater than or equal to 4 is considered high probability for an LVO		
Assessment	Points	Score
<b>Facial Palsy (ask the patient to smile)</b>		
No facial droop or only minor paralysis on one side of the face	0	
Partial or complete paralysis of one side of the face	1	
<b>Arm Weakness (arms out with palms up for 10 secs)</b>		
No drift, or both arms slowly move down equally	0	
Arm drift or some effort to lift the affected arm against gravity	1	
No effort against gravity or no movement in one or both arms	2	
<b>Speech Change (ask the patient to name 3 common items; ask them to show you 2 fingers)</b>		
Able to name at least 2 of 3 objects and follow command	0	
Names none, or only 1 of the 3 items correctly	1	
Unable to "show two fingers" to command	1	
<b>Time - when was patient last known well?</b>		
<b>Eye Deviation</b>		
Able to look to both sides without difficulty	0	
Able to move eyes horizontally in both directions but with clear difficulty	1	
Gaze is fixed to one side and does not move	2	
<b>Denial/Neglect (only do if there is arm weakness AND commands followed)</b>		
Recognizes weakness in their weak arm and recognizes their weak arm	0	
Unable to recognize weakness when asked "Are you weak anywhere"	1	
Does not recognize own arm when asked "Whose arm is this?"	1	
<b>Total</b>		

Medical Protocol 2.24

## Establish Stroke Alert Criteria

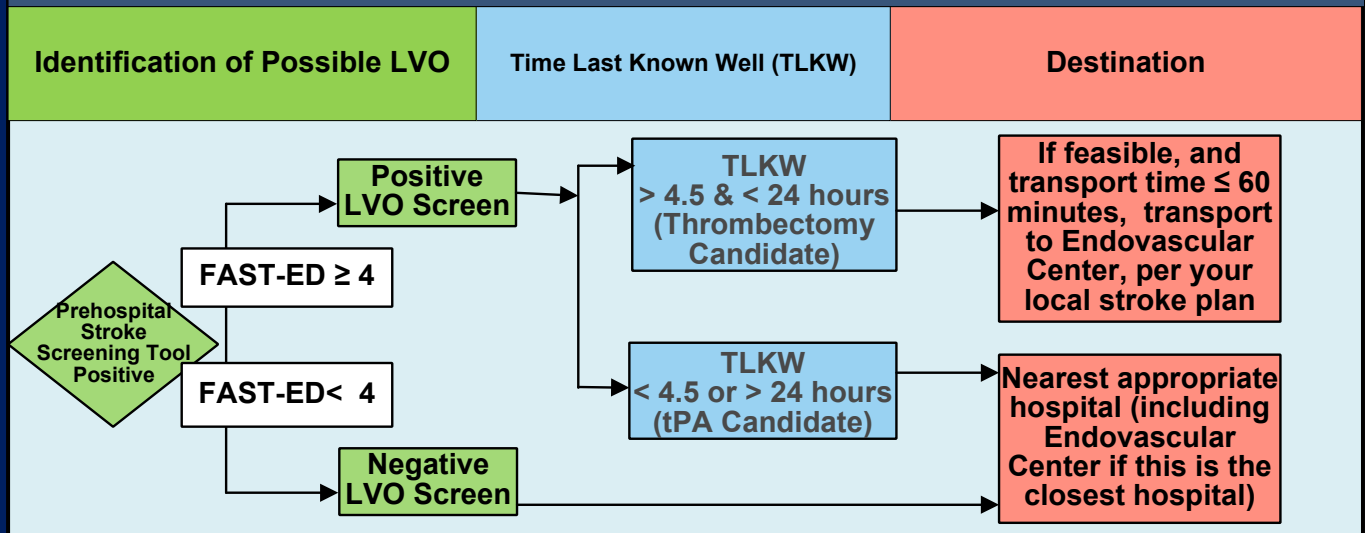
- Yes No **Stroke Alert Criteria – Please check Yes or No:**
- Blood glucose is or has been corrected to greater than 60 mg/dL?
  - Deficit unlikely due to head trauma or other identifiable causes?
  - Positive Prehospital Stroke Screen:
    - and time last known well is less than 4.5 hours **OR**
    - FAST-ED score is greater than or equal to 4 AND time last known well is less than 24 hours

**Stroke Alert Criteria – If yes to all criteria determine appropriate destination, contact receiving hospital and report a STROKE ALERT with time last known well, FAST-ED score & thrombolytic checklist results**





Destination Guidance for Possible LVO Stroke Patients



Work with your regional endovascular center when developing your local stroke plan. If transport time  $>$ 60 minutes, transport to the closest Emergency Department.

Thrombolytic Checklist for patients eligible for thrombolytics (t-PA), try to complete the following:

YES	NO	Has the patient had any of the following:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Severe head trauma or intracranial or spinal surgery within the past 3 months?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Major non-cranial surgery or trauma within 14 days with internal bleeding?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Spontaneous (non-traumatic) intracranial hemorrhage at any time in the past?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Is the patient taking any anticoagulants, including oral or injectable medications? If yes, clarify when last dose was taken (see PEARLS below)

**PEARLS for Anticoagulants:**

- Patients may recognize anticoagulants as "blood thinners". Ask about anticoagulants including warfarin (Coumadin or Jantoven), Heparin (IV/IM - including Lovenox), dabigatran (Pradaxa), rivaroxaban (Xarelto), apixaban (Eliquis), betrixaban (Bevyxxa) or edoxaban (Savaysa) and immediately communicate to hospital staff.
- **Please note**, medication manufacturers are producing new anticoagulants frequently.

**PEARLS:**

- **Stroke requires time sensitive interventions. Time = Brain**
- Every minute of acute stroke = about 2 million neurons lost.
- Transport witness, family or caregiver or obtain witness best phone number for hospital staff to verify time of symptom onset or Time Last Known Well (TLKW).
- TLKW is the last time patient known to be at their neurological baseline. If patient awakes with symptoms, TLKW is time patient was last known to be at their neurological baseline – Ask if patient got up during the night and was at baseline!
- Consider **stroke mimics** including: migraine, hypoglycemia, seizures, intoxication, sepsis, cerebral infectious process, toxic ingestion, neuropathies (Bell's palsy), neoplasms, hypertensive encephalopathy or previous stroke.



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your local Stroke agreement  
plan.

## 2.25 Syncope – Adult & Pediatric

### EMT STANDING ORDERS

# E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Administer oxygen as appropriate with a target of achieving 94 – 98% saturation.
- Attempt to determine the cause of syncope.
- Acquire and transmit 12-lead EKG, if available. If acute coronary syndrome is suspected, refer to [Acute Coronary Syndrome Protocol – Adult 3.0](#).
- Obtain blood glucose analysis; refer to [Diabetic Emergencies \(Hyperglycemia\) Protocol – Adult 2.7A](#) or [Pediatric 2.7P](#), or [Hypoglycemia Protocol – Adult 2.8A & Pediatric 2.8P](#), if indicated.
- Patients with ongoing mental status changes or coma should be treated per the [Altered Mental Status Protocol - Adult 2.3A](#) or [Pediatric 2.3P](#).
- Perform stroke screening exam (See [Stroke Protocol 2.24](#).)
- Assess for trauma either as the cause of the syncope or as a consequence of the syncopal event. Refer to [Spinal Motion Restriction Protocol 4.5](#), [Traumatic Emergencies Protocol 4.10](#) or [Traumatic Brain Injury Protocol 4.8](#) if indicated.
- Prevent and treat for shock; see [Shock Protocol – Adult 2.22A](#) or [Pediatric 2.22P](#).
- Consider ALS intercept.

### ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

# A

- Establish IV access.
- Consider fluids per [Shock Protocol – Adult 2.22A](#) or [Pediatric 2.22P](#).

### PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

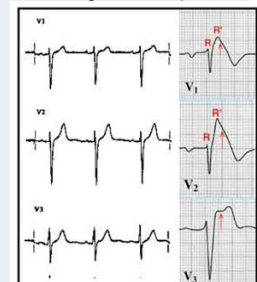
# P

- Perform cardiac monitoring.
- Observe for and treat dysrhythmias as indicated.

### PEARLS:

- Syncope is defined as a loss of consciousness accompanied by a loss of postural tone with spontaneous recovery.
- Consider all syncope to be of cardiac origin until proven otherwise.
- While often thought as benign, syncope can be the sign of more serious medical emergency. All patients with syncope deserve emergency department evaluation, even if they appear normal with few complaints on scene.
- Syncope that occurs during exercise often indicates an ominous cardiac cause. Patients should be evaluated at the ED. Syncope that occurs following exercise is almost always vasovagal and benign.
- Prolonged QTc (generally > 500ms), Brugada Syndrome (incomplete RBBB pattern in V1/V2 with ST segment elevation), Delta waves and hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy should be considered in all patients.
- There is no evidence that supports acquiring orthostatic vital signs.
- Syncope can be indicative of many medical emergencies including:
  - Myocardial infarction
  - Pulmonary embolism
  - Cardiac arrhythmias,
  - Vasovagal reflexes
  - Diabetic emergencies
  - Aortic stenosis
  - TIA
  - Poisoning/drug effects
  - Dehydration
  - Hypovolemia
  - Seizures
  - Ectopic pregnancy
  - Stroke

Brugada sample



# 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. (See [ECG Acquisition, Transmission and Interpretation Procedure 6.5](#))
  - 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 94 – 98%.
- 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  $\geq 100$  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  $\geq 100$  mmHg (MAP  $\geq 65$ ).

## PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- Monitor ECG rhythm.
- Consider IV nitroglycerin at 10 – 30 mcg/min, increasing by 10 mcg/min every 5 minutes while symptoms persist and systolic BP remains  $\geq 100$  mmHg. Maximum rate 200 mcg per minute.
  - Two (2) IV lines or equivalent are recommended and the IV nitroglycerin must be on an infusion pump.
- 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  $\geq 100$  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  $\geq 100$  mmHg.
- Treat dysrhythmias as needed; refer to the appropriate protocol.



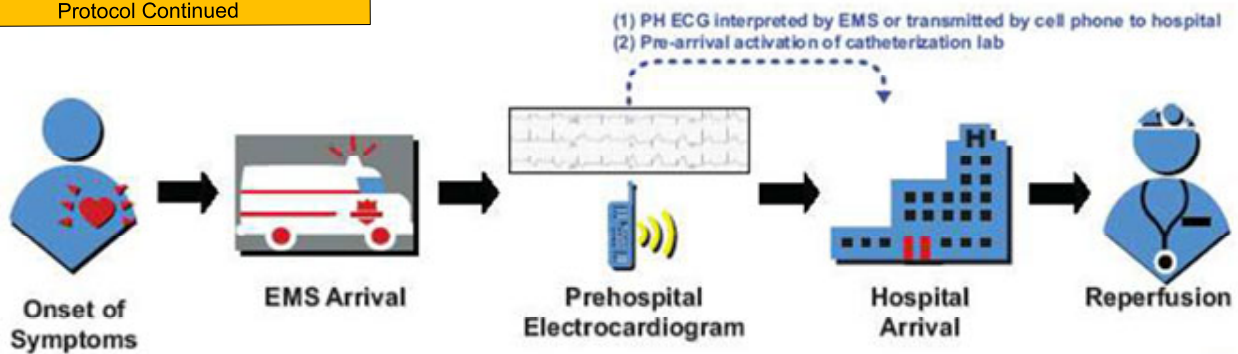
- Avoid nitroglycerin in any patient who has used a phosphodiesterase inhibitor for erectile dysfunction and pulmonary hypertension, such as sildenafil (Viagra, Revatio) or vardenafil (Levitra, Staxyn) within 24 hours, or tadalafil (Cialis, Adcirca) within 48 hours. Also avoid use in patients receiving 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

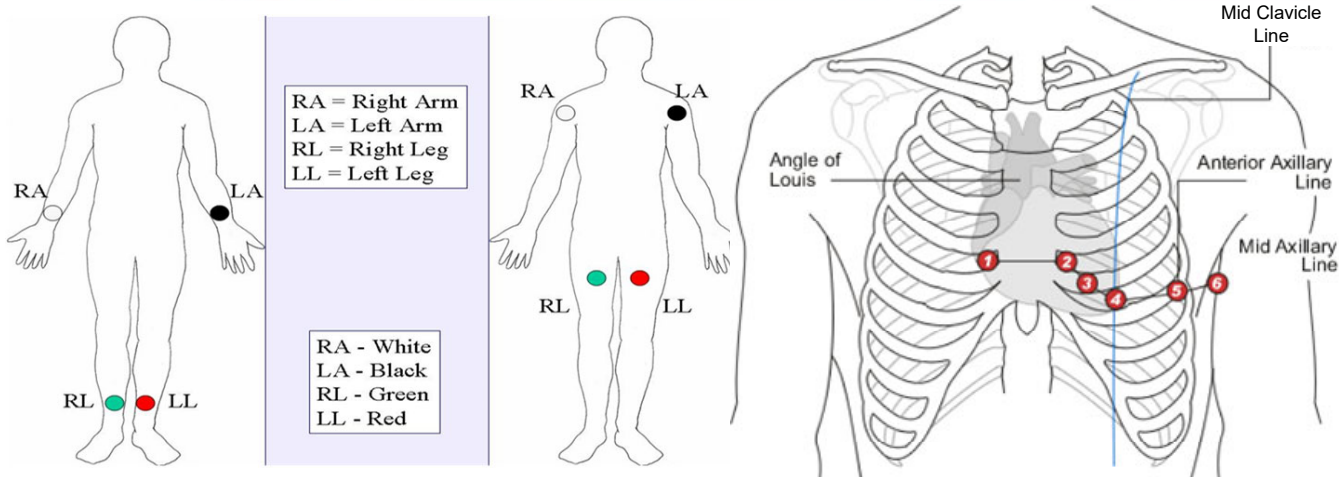
# 3.0

# Acute Coronary Syndrome – Adult

Protocol Continued



Increasing loss of myocytes



Cardiac Protocol 3.0

**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.
- Any patient 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 5 mg IV/IO, may repeat 2.5 mg 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.
  - Consider push dose epinephrine (10 mcg/mL) for short transport times or as bridge to infusion. Prepare 10 mcg/mL by adding 1 mL 0.1 mg/mL epinephrine to 9 mL normal saline, then administer 10-20 mcg boluses (1 – 2 mL) every 2 minutes (where feasible, switch to infusion as soon as practical),

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 **OR**
    - Calcium gluconate 2 grams IV/IO over 5 minutes, may repeat in 10 minutes.

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. Consider hyperkalemia in patients with wide complex bradycardia.



## 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/IM or 0.1 mg/kg IN (maximum dose 3 mg); may repeat once in 5 minutes, **OR**
  - Lorazepam 0.05 mg/kg IV/IM (maximum dose 1 mg); may repeat once in 5 minutes, **OR**
  - Diazepam 0.01 mg/kg IV (max dose 5 mg); may repeat once in 5 minutes.
- 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 2.18P](#).

### Other Causes:

- Contact **Medical Direction** and consider:
  - For hypoglycemia, see [Diabetic Emergencies \(Hypoglycemia\) Protocol – Pediatric 2.8P](#).
  - For symptomatic beta blocker overdose or calcium channel blocker overdose, consider glucagon:
    - 1 mg IV/IO (25-40 kg), every 5 minutes as necessary,
    - 0.5 mg IV/IO (less than 25 kg), every 5 minutes as necessary
  - For suspected hyperkalemia with ECG changes or symptomatic calcium channel blocker/beta blocker overdose consider:
    - Calcium gluconate (10% solution) 100 mg/kg IV/IO (maximum dose 2 gm) over 5 minutes; may repeat in 10 minutes if clinical indication persists **OR**
    - Calcium chloride (10% solution) 20 mg/kg IV/IO (maximum dose 1 gm) over 5 minutes, repeat 10 minutes; if effective consider IV infusion 20 mg/kg/hour

\*For IN administration of midazolam use a 5 mg/mL concentration.

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**.

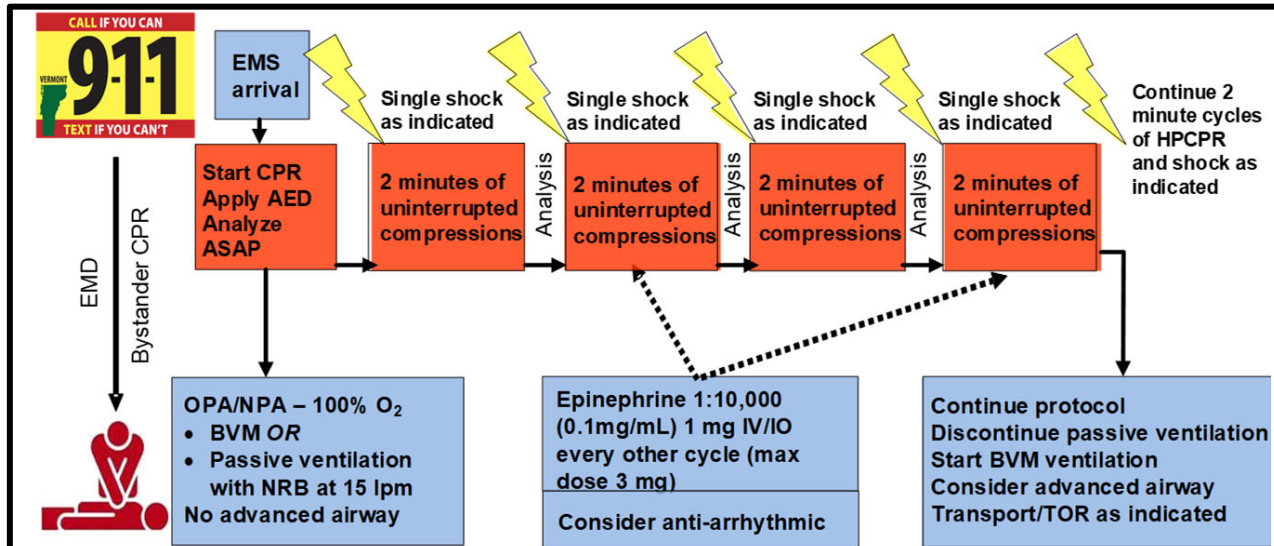


## PEARLS:

- 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.

## 3.2A

# Cardiac Arrest – Adult



- For arrests of non-cardiac etiology, including respiratory and trauma, use BVM ventilation.
- 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**
  - If resource-limited, apply high flow oxygen via non-rebreather mask (NRB) for passive ventilation

### EMT STANDING ORDERS - ADULT

# E

- Immediate high performance CPR with minimal interruptions. (Use metronome if possible.) Administer 100% O<sub>2</sub>.
- **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 (8 minutes).
- 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**
  - If resource-limited, apply high flow oxygen via NRB.
- After 4 cycles (8 minutes):
  - Continue 2 minute cycles of uninterrupted chest compressions.
  - If passive ventilation was used, switch to BVM ventilation.
- After 10 cycles (20 minutes), assess **Termination of Resuscitation (TOR) Criteria**:
  - Arrest not witnessed by emergency medical services personnel.
  - NO return of spontaneous circulation after 20 minutes of either BLS alone or combined BLS and ALS in the absence of hypothermia.
  - 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, contact **Medical Direction** to consider termination of resuscitation **OR** continued resuscitation and transport.
    - If ROSC, continue resuscitation and transport **AND** contact **Medical Direction**.
- Consider immediate transport for airway obstruction.
- If cardiac arrest is due to suspected opioid overdose, administer naloxone 4 mg IN. (See [Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose Protocol – Adult 2.19A.](#))



Policy Continues


 Protocol Continues
**EMT STANDING ORDERS – ADULT (CONTINUED)****E**

- If ROSC occurs, see [Post Resuscitative Care Protocol 3.4A](#).
- Consider termination of efforts or not attempting resuscitation (see [Do Not Resuscitate \(DNR\) & Clinician Orders \(COLST\) Policy 8.8](#) and/or [Resuscitation Initiation & Termination Policy 8.17](#)).
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.

**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 (preferred order: IV, proximal humeral IO, anterior tibial IO). 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. Maximum dose 3 mg.
- After 4 cycles (8 minutes), consider placement of a supraglottic airway without interrupting chest compressions.
- Monitor 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 (ROSC).
- Consider and correct treatable causes: hypoxia, overdose/poisoning, hypothermia and hypovolemia—treat as per specific protocol.
  - If cardiac arrest is due to suspected opioid overdose, administer naloxone 2 mg IV/IO. (See [Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose Protocol – Adult 2.19A](#).)

**PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS - ADULT****P**

- Follow ACLS guidelines as trained and credentialed. (See [Cardiac Algorithms – Appendix A6](#).)
  - 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. Maximum dose 3 mg.
  - If no response after second defibrillation, administer:
    - Amiodarone 300 mg IV/IO, 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 6.3](#).
      - Consider resuscitation for up to 60 minutes from the time of dispatch, including transport for potential reversible causes if no Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC) after initial efforts.


 Protocol Continues



## 3.2A

# Cardiac Arrest – Adult

Protocol Continues

### PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS – ADULT (CONTINUED)

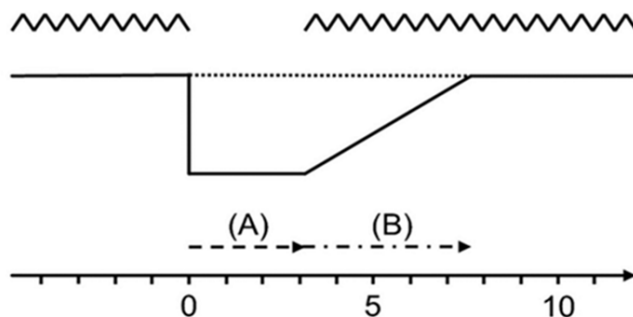
# P

- **Narrow complex PEA** is often due to a mechanical cause including hemorrhage / hypovolemia, tension pneumothorax, massive MI and pulmonary embolism. Consider causes and treat appropriately including:
  - IV fluid boluses for suspected hypovolemia
  - Needle decompression for suspected tension pneumothorax (See [Needle Decompression Thoracostomy \(NDT\) Procedure 6.8.](#))
  - Consider resuscitation for up to 60 minutes from the time of dispatch, including transport for potential reversible causes if no Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC) after initial efforts.
- **Wide complex PEA** is often due to a metabolic cause including hyperkalemia and sodium-channel blocker toxicity. For wide complex PEA, consider:
  - Calcium gluconate 2 grams IV **OR** calcium chloride (10%) 1 gram IV **AND**
  - Sodium bicarbonate 1 - 2 mEq/kg IV
- For suspected pre-existing metabolic acidosis or suspected excited/agitated delirium, consider:
  - Sodium bicarbonate 1 - 2 mEq/kg IV

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



Compressions

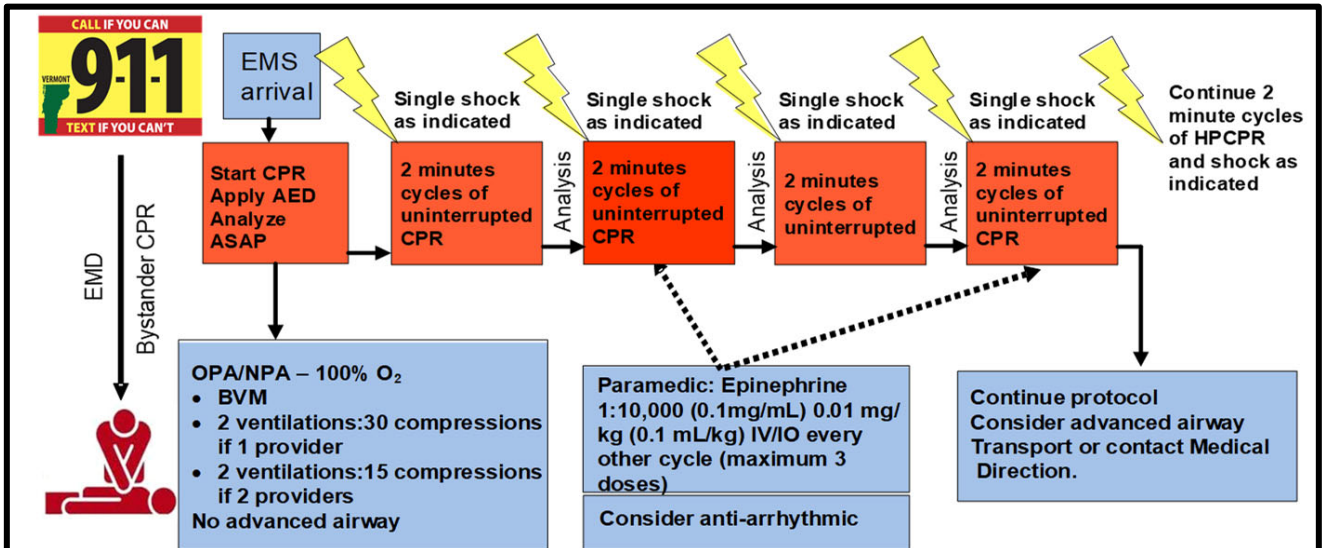
Coronary perfusion pressure – note the interval of interruption [A] as well as the interval until the restoration of coronary perfusion pressure [A+B]

Time in Seconds

#### PEARLS:

- 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 to avoid excessive interruptions in CPR.
- When possible, use live CPR feedback devices and voice recorder to facilitate high-quality CPR and for QA.
- Naloxone generally has no role in the management of cardiac arrest. However, if the cardiac arrest is due to a suspected opioid overdose, administer a trial dose of naloxone, as it can be difficult to discern true cardiac arrest from an opioid overdose patient with deep CNS and cardiovascular depression. Do not delay or defer other treatments such as CPR, ventilation and oxygenation.
- Consider limiting doses of epinephrine for refractory ventricular fibrillation/tachycardia to avoid hyperstimulation of myocardium. Contact **Medical Direction** for guidance.





- Perform 2-minute cycles of high performance CPR.
- Rhythm/pulse check and defibrillation occur between cycles.
- Ventilation / Oxygenation options:
  - One provider: 2 breaths every 30 compressions
  - Two providers: 2 breaths every 15 compressions
  - Advanced airway in place: continuous chest compressions with one BVM ventilation every 10 compressions interposed asynchronously.

## EMT STANDING ORDERS

# E

- Immediate high performance CPR with minimal interruptions (use metronome if possible). Administer 100% oxygen.
- **Apply AED and use as soon as possible.** 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 immediate transport for airway obstruction.
- If cardiac arrest is due to suspected opioid overdose, administer naloxone. (See [Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose Protocol – Pediatric 2.19P](#).)
- After 10 cycles (20 minutes), transport or contact Medical Direction to consider termination of efforts. See [DNR/COLST Policy 8.8](#).
- 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 or IV/IO placement.
- Establish IV/IO access (IV preferred).
- BVM ventilation is the preferred method of ventilation for pediatric population. However, if unsuccessful, consider placement of supraglottic airway.
  - Once an advanced airway is in place, perform continuous chest compressions with one ventilation every 10 compressions interposed asynchronously.
- Monitor 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 (ROSC).

Policy Continues




 Protocol Continues
**ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS****A**

- 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. (See [Needle Decompression Thoracostomy \(NDT\) Procedure 6.8.](#))
- 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 or symptomatic calcium channel blocker/ beta blocker overdose consider:
  - Calcium gluconate (10% solution) 100 mg/kg IV/IO (maximum dose 2 gm) with a maximum 2 gm/dose over 5 minutes; may repeat in 10 minutes if clinical indication persists **OR**
  - Calcium chloride (10% solution) 20 mg/kg IV/IO (maximum dose 1 gm) over 5 minutes, repeat 10 minutes; if effective consider IV infusion 20 mg/kg/hour
    - Do not mix with or infuse immediately before or after sodium bicarbonate without intervening flush. **Do not use routinely in cardiac arrest.**

**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 to a maximum of 3 doses.
- 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.
  - For Torsades de Pointes: Magnesium sulfate 25 – 50 mg/kg (maximum 2 grams) IV/IO over 1 – 2 minutes.


 Protocol Continues

Protocol Continues

## PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS (CONTINUED)

# P

### For Asystole or Pulseless Electrical Activity (PEA):

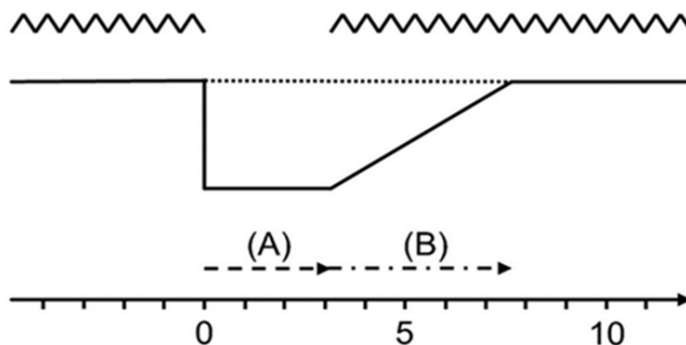
- Administer Epinephrine (**1:10,000**) (**0.1 mg/mL**) 0.01 mg/kg (0.1 mL/kg) IV/IO **OR** 0.1 mg/kg (**1:1,000**) (**1 mg/mL**) 0.1 mL/kg via ETT; repeat every 3 – 5 minutes to a maximum of 3 doses..
- Give 2 minutes of CPR, then check rhythm:
  - If asystole or PEA, continue epinephrine and 2 minutes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



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



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 chest compressions while defibrillator is charging and resume compressions immediately after the shock is delivered to avoid excessive interruptions in 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  $\geq 140$  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:
  - For systolic BP of 140 – 160 mmHg: nitroglycerin 0.4 mg SL.
  - For systolic BP of 160 – 200 mmHg: nitroglycerin 0.8 mg SL (2 tabs/sprays).
  - For systolic BP > 200 mmHg: nitroglycerin 1.2 mg SL (3 tabs/sprays).
  - The above doses may be repeated every 5 minutes until symptomatic improvement or systolic BP is 140 mmHg
- Consider Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) with maximum 10 – 15 cm H<sub>2</sub>O pressure support. (See [CPAP Procedure 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  $\geq 100$  mmHg (MAP  $\geq 65$ ) 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  $\geq 140$  mmHg.
- Confirm pulmonary edema using point-of-care ultrasound, if available and credentialed.
- 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:
  - Initial ventilation rate of 10 – 12 BPM.
  - Administer oxygen as appropriate with a target of achieving 94 – 98% saturation.
- Acquire and transmit a 12-lead ECG, if available.

## ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- If advanced airway is present, ventilation rate is 6 – 10 BPM.
- Titrate ventilation rate to waveform capnography of 35 to 40 mmHg.
- When feasible, titrate FiO<sub>2</sub> to minimum necessary to achieve SpO<sub>2</sub> of 94 – 98%.
- If SBP < 90 mmHg (MAP < 65) 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 (MAP ≥ 65).
- Secure advanced airway if indicated. See [Orotracheal Intubation Procedure 5.7](#).

### 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. Prepare 10 mcg/mL by adding 1 mL 0.1 mg/mL epinephrine to 9 mL normal saline, then administer 10 – 20 mcg boluses (1 – 2 mL) every 2 minutes (where feasible, switch to infusion as soon as practical).
- 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:
  - Initial ventilation rate of 12 – 20 BPM.
  - Administer oxygen as appropriate with a target of achieving 94 – 98% saturation.
- Acquire and transmit a 12-lead ECG, if available.

### ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

**A**

- If advanced airway is present, ventilation rate is 8 – 10 BPM.
- Titrate ventilation rate to waveform capnography of 35 – 40 mm Hg.
- When feasible, titrate FiO<sub>2</sub> to minimum necessary to achieve SpO<sub>2</sub> of 94 – 98%.
- Maintain systolic blood pressure 70 mmHg + (2 x age). Administer fluid bolus of 20 mL/kg of 0.9% NaCl (use syringe push method for infants and small children). May repeat to a maximum **60** mL/kg.

### PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

**P**

- Secure advanced airway if indicated. See [Orotracheal Intubation Procedure 5.7](#).

#### 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 fluid bolus of 20 mL/kg of 0.9% NaCl by syringe push method (may repeat to a maximum **60** mL/kg) **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 (preferably no more distal than AC fossa). 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 5 mg IV/IO, may repeat 2.5 mg once in 5 minutes.

**P**

**If symptomatic, but hemodynamically stable:**

- **For narrow complex tachycardia (with a heart rate persistently > 150 bpm):**
  - Attempt Valsalva vagal maneuver, 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)

- P**
- 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 50 – 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 D<sub>5</sub>W or 0.9% NaCl over 10 minutes.

- 
- Diltiazem, metoprolol, amiodarone, lidocaine 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. After 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).

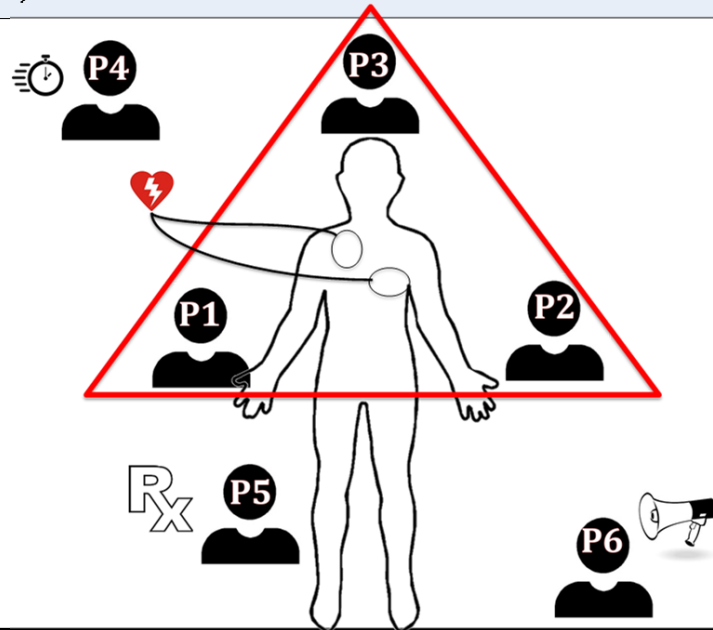
## PEARLS:

- 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

# 3.6

# Team-Focused CPR – Adult & Pediatric

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):

- Sets up defibrillator
- Alternates 2 minutes of chest compressions with Position 2
- Assists Position 3 with ventilations in off cycle

**POSITION #2-Compressor 2** (left side of patient):

- Initiates 2 minutes of chest compressions at rate of 100 – 120 / min
- Assists Position 3 with ventilations in off cycle

**POSITION #3-Airway** (At patient’s head):

- Opens airway and inserts OPA
- Assembles BVM or if resource limited, assemble NRB.
- If using BVM, provide 2-handed mask seal
- Inserts advanced airway after 8 minutes/4 cycles (or sooner if BVM ventilations are inadequate).

**POSITION #4-Team Leader** (Outside CPR triangle):

- Coaches appropriate rate and depth of compressions
- Calls for compressor change every two 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 (IV access preferred)
- 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

Policy Continues

# Team-Focused CPR – Adult & Pediatric

3.6

Policy Continued

Cardiac Protocol 3.6

- 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 decreases 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 every 2 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 (**Infant:** 1½-inch depth; **Child:** 2-inch depth)
  - 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 without interrupting chest compressions. (**Pediatric:** Ventilate at a ratio of 15:2, with one breath delivered after the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 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 device is used, it should not lead to delay or interruption in chest compressions; consider delayed application.
- 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 ETCO<sub>2</sub> 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
- OPA/NPA placed
- O<sub>2</sub> flowing and attached to NRB/BVM
- ETCO<sub>2</sub> 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

# Burns/Electrocution/Lightning

## Adult & Pediatric

### EMT STANDING ORDERS

- 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/Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Protocol - Adult 2.23A](#) or [Smoke Inhalation/Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Protocol - Pediatric 2.23P](#).

## E

#### 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, e.g., tongue depressor
  - Flush with copious amounts of clean water or sterile saline for 10 – 15 minutes, unless contraindicated by type of chemical agent (e.g., sodium, potassium or dry lime and/or phenols).

#### Electrical/Lightning

- 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 Rule of Nines (see next page).
- Determine depth of injury.
- Do not include 1<sup>st</sup> degree burns in burn surface area (BSA) percentage.

#### Pain Control

- If a partial thickness burn, 2<sup>nd</sup> degree) is < 10% body surface area:
  - Apply room-temperature water or room-temperature wet towels to burned area for 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 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns involving ≥15% body surface area:
  - $\frac{\text{Burn Area} \times \text{Pt. Wt. in Kg}}{4} = \# \text{ mL/hour} \times \text{first 8 hours 0.9\% NaCl/LR IV.}$

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/Lightning Adult & Pediatric

4.0

Protocol Continues

## PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

**P**

Refer to:

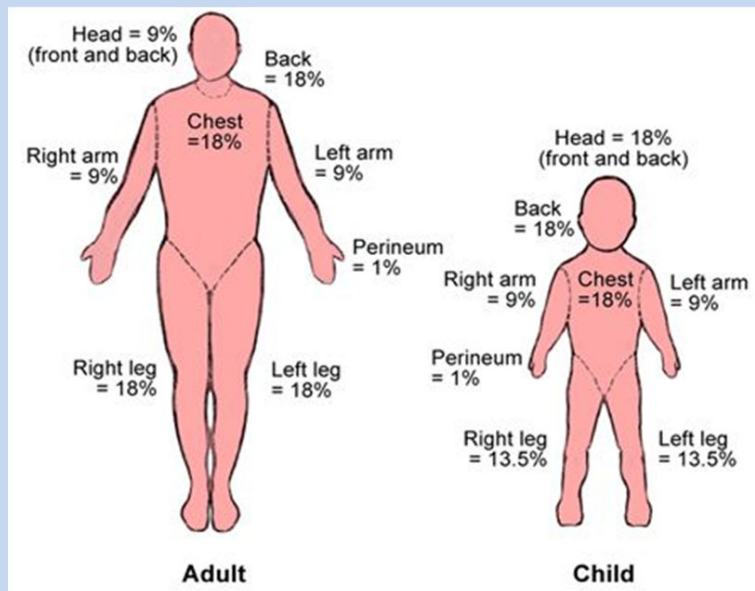
- [Airway Management Protocol – Adult 5.1A](#) or [Airway Management Protocol – Pediatric 5.1P](#).
- [Pain Management Protocol – Adult 2.18A](#) or [Pain Management Protocol – Pediatric 2.18P](#).

Transport Decision:

- Consider air medical transport for 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.

## 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 2.22A](#) or [Shock Protocol – Pediatric 2.22P](#).

### PEARLS:

- Apnea may last longer than asystole in lightning injuries. Provide ventilatory support.
- Electrocution/lightning 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.



# Crush/Suspension Injury – Adult & Pediatric

## 4.1

### EMT STANDING ORDERS

# E

- Routine Patient Care. Administer oxygen as appropriate with a target of achieving 94 – 98% saturation.
- Initiate spinal motion restriction if indicated.
- Acquire and transmit 12-lead ECG if available. If extrication is prolonged, obtain multiple ECGs.
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.
- Patients who have experienced suspension or vertical entrapment injuries should be **rapidly** extricated to a supine position to restore blood flow to heart and brain.
- Assess and treat for traumatic injury. See [Traumatic Emergencies Protocol – 4.10](#).
- See [Shock Protocol – Adult 2.22A](#) and [Pediatric 2.22P](#), and [Trauma Triage and Transport Decision Policy 8.20](#).

### 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 (**Pediatric:** 20 mL/kg 0.9% NaCl) be administered **prior to extrication**.
- Assess pain level. Consider pain control measures. See [Pain Management Protocol – Adult 2.18A](#) or [Pain Management Protocol – Pediatric 2.18P](#).

### PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

# P

- For significant crush injuries or prolonged entrapment/suspension, consider:
  - Sodium bicarbonate 1 mEq/kg (maximum dose 50 mEq) IV/IO bolus over 5 minutes.
- Consider the following:
  - Monitor for dysrhythmias or signs of hyperkalemia before and after extrication.
  - If ECG suggestive of hyperkalemia, consider administering the following:
    - Calcium chloride (10% solution) 1 gram IV/IO over 5 minutes, may repeat in 10 minutes (**Pediatric:** 20 mg/kg IV/IO (maximum dose 1 gm) **OR**
    - Calcium gluconate (10% solution) 2 grams IV/IO over 5 minutes, may repeat in 10 minutes (**Pediatric:** 100 mg/kg IV/IO (maximum dose 2 gm).
    - Albuterol continuous 10 – 20 mg nebulized.

### EMT/ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC EXTENDED CARE ORDERS

# X

- Secondary to initial bolus, consider sodium bicarbonate infusion:
  - 150 mEq in 1000 mL 0.9% NaCl or D5W at a rate of 250 mL/hr or 4 mL/min.
- In the event that adequate fluid resuscitation is not available, consider applying a tourniquet on the affected limb and do not release until adequate IV fluids and/or medications are available.
- If extrication is prolonged > 1 hour, contact online **Medical Direction** for additional considerations prior to extricating the patient.

### PEARLS

- **Compression syndrome:** An indirect muscle injury due to a simple, slow compression of a group of muscles leading to ischemic damage and release of toxic substances into the circulatory system. (For example, a patient who fell and has been on the floor for 2 days)
- **Compartment syndrome:** A localized rapid rise of tension within a muscle compartment, which inevitably leads to metabolic disturbances akin to rhabdomyolysis.
- **Crush syndrome:** Involves a series of metabolic changes produced due to an injury of the skeletal muscles of such a severity as to cause a disruption of cellular integrity and release of its contents into the circulation.
- **Suspension syndrome:** A state of shock caused by blood pooling in dependent lower extremities while the body is held upright without any movement for a period of time. May lead to a relative hypovolemic state and cardiovascular collapse.
- Causes of mortality in untreated crush syndrome:
  - Immediate: severe head injury, traumatic asphyxia, torso injury with intrathoracic or intra-abdominal organ injury
  - Early: hyperkalemia, hypovolemia/shock,
  - Late: renal failure, coagulopathy, hemorrhage and sepsis
- Suspect hyperkalemia if T waves become peaked, QRS prolonged > 0.12 seconds, absent P waves, or prolonged QTc. Hyperkalemia may be delayed up to 24 hours after extrication.
- A patient with a crush injury may initially present with very few signs and symptoms, therefore, maintain a high index of suspicion for any patient with a compressive mechanism of injury.

# Drowning/Submersion Injuries – Adult & Pediatric

4.2

Trauma Protocols 4.2



## EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Victims with only respiratory arrest usually respond after a few artificial breaths are given.
  - Give a few breaths and check for a pulse.
    - Anticipate vomiting.
- For patients in cardiac arrest, provide immediate CPR.
  - Utilize the sequence ABC, not CAB, i.e. start with airway and breathing before compressions.
- Routine stabilization of the cervical spine in the absence of circumstances that suggest a spinal injury is not recommended.
  - If c-spine injury is suspected, 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. (See [Hypothermia – Adult & Pediatric Protocol 2.11.](#))
- 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:

- There is no need to clear the airway of aspirated water; only a modest amount of water is aspirated by most drowning victims, and aspirated water is rapidly absorbed into the central circulation.
- Unnecessary cervical spine immobilization can impede adequate opening of the airway and delay delivery of rescue breaths.
- 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.

# Eye Injuries – Adult & Pediatric

## 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 2.18A](#) or [Pain Management Protocol – Pediatric 2.18P](#).
- Refer to the [Nausea/Vomiting Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 2.12](#).

### 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<sup>®</sup>).
- 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.

# Musculoskeletal Injuries – Adult & Pediatric

4.4

Trauma Protocol 4.4

## EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Routine Patient Care.
- Manually stabilize the injury.
- For open fractures, control bleeding and treat for shock. See [Tourniquet & Hemostatic Agent Procedure – Adult & Pediatric 6.9](#), [Shock Protocol – Adult 2.22A](#) or [Shock Protocol – Pediatric 2.22P](#). Remove obvious debris, irrigate open wounds with saline solution, and cover with moist sterile dressing.
- For significantly-angulated fractures, attempt to reposition to anatomical position of function, so long as the fracture is not at/near a joint.
- 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 Procedure 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 and assessed for uncontrolled bleeding. See [Tourniquet & Hemostatic Agent – Adult & Pediatric Procedure 6.11](#). 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 8.20](#) and [Pain Management Protocol – Adult 2.18A](#) or [Pain Management Protocol – Pediatric 2.18P](#)
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept. Minimize scene time.

## ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

A/P

- Establish IV access.
- For significant injury, consider administration of 0.9% NaCl 500 mL bolus IV for adults; 20 mL/kg for **pediatric**.  
Assess pain level and consider pain control measures. See [Pain Management Protocol – Adult 2.17A](#) or [Pediatric 2.17P](#).



## 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 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.

## 4.5

# Spinal Motion Restriction

### EMT/ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

- Routine Patient Care.
- Perform advanced spinal assessment (See [Advanced Spinal Assessment Procedure 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. Head immobilization may be appropriate for patients unable to control their own movements.
- 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 2.12](#).

E/  
A/  
P

Protocol 4.5

#### 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.



- 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 2.22A](#) or [Shock Protocol – Pediatric 2.22P](#).
- 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 8.20](#).

### ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

A

- Establish IV/IO access.
- Administer fluid bolus 500 mL (20 mL/kg for **pediatric**) 0.9% NaCl IV/IO.
- Consider pain management, see [Pain Management Protocol – Adult 2.18A](#) or [Pain Management Protocol – Pediatric 2.18P](#).

### PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- In presence of tension pneumothorax, perform needle decompression on the affected side. (See [Needle Decompression Thoracostomy \(NDT\) Procedure 6.8](#).)
- 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.
- For blunt chest injuries, consider acquiring and transmitting 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 via wide-open IV/IO bolus over approximately 10 minutes. 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 (penicillin).
- Good documentation of time of injury, time of TXA administration is necessary.

# Traumatic Brain Injury – Adult & Pediatric

4.8

## INDICATIONS OF MODERATE OR SEVERE TBI DEFINED AS:

Anyone with physical trauma and a mechanism consistent with the *potential* to have induced a brain injury, **AND**:

- Any injured patient with loss of consciousness, especially those with GCS < 15 or confusion, **OR**
- Multisystem trauma requiring intubation, whether the primary need for intubation was from TBI or from other potential injuries, **OR**
- Post-traumatic seizures, whether they are continuing or not.

## EMT STANDING ORDERS

E



### PREVENT / CORRECT:

- **HYPOXIA**
- **HYPERVENTILATION**
- **HYPOTENSION**

- Routine Patient Care. See [Advanced Spinal Assessment Procedure 6.0](#) and [Spinal Motion Restriction Protocol 4.5](#).
- Continuously monitor oxygen saturation via pulse oximetry.
- Administer continuous, high-flow oxygen via NRB for all moderate or severe TBI cases.
- If breathing is inadequate, ventilate with 100% oxygen via BVM, utilizing normal ventilation parameters, maintaining SpO<sub>2</sub> > 94%.
  - **Adult:** 10 breaths per minute.
  - **Child:** 12 – 20 breaths per minute.
  - **Infant:** 20 – 30 breaths per minute.
- Utilize Pressure-Controlled BVM (PCB) and Ventilation Rate Timer (VRT), if available.
- If staffing allows, assign a ventilation monitor.
- Target tidal volume is 7 cc/kg (Utilize 2-finger bagging technique for adult patients; 1-finger bagging technique for pediatric patients.)
- Check systolic blood pressure (SBP) every 3 – 5 minutes.
- 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 8.20](#).



## 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/IO access.
- To prevent hypotension, administer IV fluid for any SBP < 90 or any signs of downtrending SBP:
  - **Adult:** Fluid bolus 1,000 mL 0.9% NaCl IV. See [Shock Protocol – Adult 2.22A](#).
  - **Child and Infant:** Fluid bolus 20 mL/kg 0.9% NaCl IV. See [Shock Protocol – Pediatric 2.22P](#).
- 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 2.22P](#).
- If continuous waveform capnography is available:
  - Ventilate to *strictly* maintain an ETCO<sub>2</sub> level of 35 – 45 mmHg (target = 40).



Protocol Continues


 Protocol Continued

## PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS -- ADULT

# P

- Consider supraglottic airway (SGA) or intubation if GCS is < 8 and unable to maintain airway with BVM.
- Utilize continuous waveform capnography to *strictly* maintain an ETCO<sub>2</sub> level of 35 – 45 mmHg (target = 40).
- Consider sedation for patients that are combative and may cause further harm to self and others.
  - Ketamine 4 mg/kg (maximum dose 500 mg) administered by intramuscular (IM) injection only. Contact **Medical Direction** for additional dosing **OR**
  - 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 5 mg IV/IO, may repeat once in 5 minutes.
- For seizures, refer to [Seizure Protocol – Adult 2.20A](#).



## PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS -- PEDIATRIC



- Consider sedation for patients that are combative and may cause further harm to self and others.
  - Midazolam 0.1 mg/kg IV/IO (maximum dose 2.5 mg) or 0.2 mg/kg IM/intranasal (maximum single dose 5 mg); may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR**
  - Lorazepam 0.1 mg/kg IV/IO (maximum dose 1 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 2.20P](#).



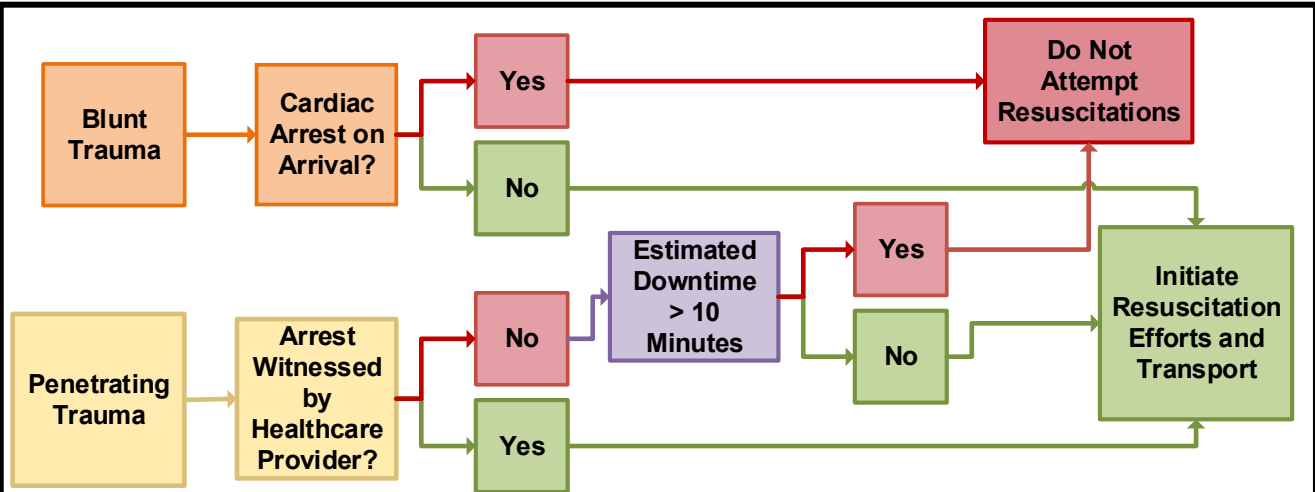
Most patients with severe head injury retain airway reflexes. Rapid transport to hospital without intubation is appropriate when possible.

### 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.
- A *single* non-spurious O<sub>2</sub> sat of < 90% is *independently* associated with a *doubling* of mortality.
- Hyperventilation is *independently* associated with at least a doubling of mortality and some studies have shown that *even moderate* hyperventilation can increase the risk of dying by six times.
- A single episode of SBP < 90 mmHg is *independently* associated with *at least a* doubling of mortality. Repeated episodes of hypotension can increase the risk of dying by as much as *eight* times.
- Implementation of this practice bundle has been shown to *double the survival rate* of severely head injured patients and *triple* the rate of survival for intubated patients.

# Traumatic Cardiac Arrest (TCA) - Adult & Pediatric

4.9



Do **not** apply this protocol if arrest is suspected to be medical in nature.

Trauma Protocol 4.9

## EMT STANDING ORDERS

E

- Determine if resuscitation is indicated per above flowchart. If resuscitation is initiated, transport immediately and limit scene time to < 10 minutes (if possible).
- Routine Patient Care with focus on continuous manual chest compressions and AED use.
  - Ventilate with BVM, 1 breath every 10 compressions.
- Provide early airway intervention using oral and/or nasal airways and suction
- Control internal and external hemorrhage.
  - See [Traumatic Emergencies Protocol 4.10](#) and [Tourniquet & Hemostatic Agent Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 6.11](#).
  - Apply pelvic binder as indicated.
  - Align long bone fractures, splint as indicated.
- Attempt to maintain spinal motion restriction by minimizing head movement. Do not apply a cervical collar before ROSC.
- If ROSC occurs, see [Post Resuscitative Care Protocol – Adult 3.4A](#) or [Pedi 3.4P](#).
- See [Trauma Triage and Transport Decision Policy 8.20](#).
- Consider activation of Air Medical Transport. Request paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.
- Alert receiving facility of a trauma alert and a patient in cardiac arrest
- Consider not initiating resuscitation or early termination of efforts if there are obvious signs of death, injuries that are not compatible with life, or if there has been a prolonged downtime. See [Resuscitation Initiation and Termination 8.17](#).

## ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS - ADULT

A

- Place IV/IO without interrupting chest compressions
- Administer 500 mL – 1000 mL of 0.9% NaCl, repeat as needed. Warmed fluids should be used where available to aid in shock treatment.
- Epinephrine is **NOT** recommended in traumatic cardiac arrest
- Consider placement of supraglottic airway and ensure quality of ventilation with waveform capnography.

## ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS - PEDIATRIC



- Administer fluid bolus 20mL/kg of 0.9% NaCl by syringe method (may repeat to a maximum 60 mL/kg). Warmed fluids should be used where available to aid in shock treatment.
- Consider placement of supraglottic airway and ensure quality of ventilation with waveform capnography.

Protocol Continues

# 4.9 Traumatic Cardiac Arrest (TCA) - Adult & Pediatric

Protocol Continued

## PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- Consider early placement of an endotracheal tube without interrupting chest compression. See [Airway Management Procedure 5.0](#), [Orotracheal Intubation Procedure 5.7](#), or [Percutaneous Cricothyrotomy Procedure 5.8](#), or [Surgical Cricothyrotomy Procedure 5.11](#).
- Consider leaving supraglottic airway in place, if effective. Monitor placement with capnography.
- Perform bilateral needle chest decompression. See [Thoracic and Abdominal Injuries Protocol 4.6](#) and [Needle Decompression Thoracostomy \(NDT\) Procedure 6.8](#)
- If Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC) occurs, consider tranexamic acid. (See [Tranexamic Acid \(TXA\) Protocol 4.7](#).)
- Epinephrine and antidysrhythmics are not recommended in traumatic cardiac arrest.
- Apply cardiac monitor and treat displayed rhythm. Confirm with point-of-care ultrasound, if available and trained.
  - Asystole or PEA with rate < 40
    - Terminate Resuscitation (See [Resuscitation Initiation and Termination Policy 8.17](#).)
  - PEA with rate > 40
    - Rapid transport to nearest appropriate facility, with ongoing resuscitation
  - VFib/VTach
    - Defibrillate, and initiate rapid transport to nearest facility, with ongoing resuscitation

### PEARLS:

- Use warmed fluids when administering fluid bolus to patients in TCA, as shock management is crucial in this population.
- It has been identified that cardiac arrest as a result of blunt force trauma has an almost 100% mortality rate. Cardiac arrest from penetrating trauma has a higher likelihood of survivability with recent advancements in trauma care.
- Due to the nature of traumatic cardiac arrest, patients may not always strictly meet the criteria for TOR. This protocol is designed to be a decision making guide: if in doubt, start resuscitation and follow established protocols.
- Always remember, a medical cardiac arrest can lead to a traumatic injury (e.g., a cardiac arrest while driving).



# Traumatic Emergencies

## Multi-System & General Trauma Guidelines

4.10

Trauma Protocol 4.10

Important History Elements	Relevant Signs and Symptoms	Differential (Life Threatening)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time and mechanism of injury</li> <li>• Damage to structure or vehicle</li> <li>• Patient location in structure or vehicle</li> <li>• Others dead or injured</li> <li>• Speed and details of traffic accident</li> <li>• Restraints and protective equipment present or absent</li> <li>• SAMPLE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hypotension or shock</li> <li>• Hypoxia</li> <li>• Cardiac or respiratory arrest</li> <li>• Pain and swelling</li> <li>• Deformity, lesions, bleeding</li> <li>• Altered mental status or unconsciousness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chest: pneumothorax (hemo- / tension-), flail chest, cardiac tamponade, open chest wound</li> <li>• Spine fractures / spinal cord injury</li> <li>• Intra-abdominal bleeding</li> <li>• Pelvic / femur fracture</li> <li>• Head injury</li> <li>• Foreign body airway obstruction / laryngeal fracture</li> <li>• Hypothermia, hyperthermia, environmental exposure</li> </ul>

### STANDING ORDERS – ADULT & PEDIATRIC

- Routine Patient Care
- Perform advanced spinal assessment (See [Advanced Spinal Assessment Procedure 6.0](#)) to determine if patient requires spinal motion restriction.
- During primary survey, providers should follow the **MARCH** algorithm, continually reassessing patient status:
  - **M:** Massive Hemorrhage: control of life threatening bleeding is key in traumatic injury, see [Shock Protocol - Adult 2.22A](#) & [Shock Protocol - Pediatric 2.22P](#), [Tourniquet & Hemostatic Agent Procedure - Adult & Pediatric 6.11](#). if suspected pelvic instability, apply pelvic binder.
  - **A:** Airway Control: if the patient is unable to maintain their own airway, insert an adjunct or advanced airway (See [Airway Management Procedure - 5.0](#), [Airway Management Protocol – Adult 5.1A](#) & [Airway Management Protocol – Pediatric 5.1P](#)).
  - **R:** Respiratory Support: ensure adequate ventilatory status is attained and SpO<sub>2</sub> is kept above 94% using a bag valve mask or other appropriate ventilatory assistance.
  - **C:** Circulation: assess adequate circulation and perfusion, and treat for shock (See [Shock Protocol - Adult 2.22A](#) & [Shock Protocol - Pediatric 2.22P](#))
  - **H:** Hypothermia: ensure patient is kept warm during transport and shock treatment through use of bulky blankets, warmed IV fluids, and active warming as indicated.

Obtain baseline vital signs and level of consciousness (A/V/P/U):

### IF NORMAL FINDINGS ABOVE

### EMT/ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS – ADULT & PEDIATRIC

- Routine patient care. Complete detailed secondary assessment. Treat disability: splint any suspected fractures, consider pelvic binding and treatment of any hemorrhage, evaluate for presence of traumatic brain injury.
- Transport to appropriate destination using [Trauma Triage & Transport Decision Policy - 8.20](#).
- Continually reassess for changes in patient status.

E/A/P




 Protocol Continued

## IF ABNORMAL FINDINGS ABOVE

**EMT STANDING ORDERS – ADULT & PEDIATRIC****E**

- Routine Patient Care.
- Treat disability: splint any suspected fractures, consider pelvic binding and treatment of any hemorrhage, evaluate for presence of traumatic brain injury.
- Consider treatment for hypothermia in shock management.
- Limit scene time to <10 minutes; provide early notification to receiving facility.
- Rapidly transport to appropriate destination using [Trauma Triage & Transport Decision Policy – 8.20](#).

**ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS – ADULT & PEDIATRIC****A**

- Obtain IV/IO access
- Consider administration of warmed 0.9% normal saline bolus to treat hypovolemic shock:
  - Adult: 500 mL bolus to maintain a MAP > 65 mmHg (systolic > 90 mmHg)
  - Pediatric: 20 mL/kg bolus to improve clinical condition (capillary refill time ≤ 2 seconds, equal peripheral and distal pulses, improved mental status, normal breathing).
  - Total volume administered should not exceed 2,000 mL for adults, and 60 mL/kg for pediatric patients.
- See [Shock Protocol – Adult 2.22A](#) or [Shock Protocol – Pediatric 2.22P](#).
- Consider an antiemetic for nausea/vomiting.

**PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS – ADULT & PEDIATRIC****P**

- Consider chest decompression if tension pneumothorax is present. (See [Needle Decompression Thoracostomy \(NDT\) Procedure 6.8](#).)
- Consider use of TXA if significant hemorrhage is present. (See [Tranexamic Acid \(TXA\) Protocol – Adult 4.7](#).)
- Consider pain management (see [Pain Management Protocol – Adult 2.18A](#)) as indicated.
- If MAP remains < 65 mmHg following fluid administration, consider use of vasopressors (see [Shock Protocol – Adult 2.22A](#) or [Shock Protocol – Pediatric 2.22P](#).)
- Perform point-of-care ultrasound E-FAST exam if available and credentialed.

**Notify receiving hospital as soon as reasonably possible for patients that meet “Trauma Alert” criteria.**

**PEARLS:**

- Scene time should not be delayed for procedures and interventions which can be performed en route.
- BVM ventilation is an acceptable method of airway management if pulse oximetry can be maintained above 94%.
- Rapid transport destination determination and notification of the receiving facility in the event of a “Trauma Alert” are critical for severely-injured patients.
- Geriatric patients should be evaluated with a high index of suspicion, as age related factors may reduce their ability to sense pain, and their ability to compensate effectively in traumatic injury.
- Mechanism is the most reliable indicator of serious injury in many settings.
- TXA in multi-system trauma must be given within 3 hours of injury. Rapid bolus administration of TXA can cause hypotension, so care should be taken in administration.

## 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 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
- Oral airway
- Suction
- Removal of foreign body.

Provide ventilation with a bag-valve-mask (BVM). Using a PEEP valve set at 5 – 15 cmH<sub>2</sub>O is recommended. Proper use of the BVM includes appropriate mask selection and head positioning so sternal notch and ear are at the same level, to ensure a good seal. Elevate the stretcher to at least 30° when appropriate. 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, until chest rise. If the patient has some respiratory effort; synchronize ventilations with the patient's own inhalation effort.

**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

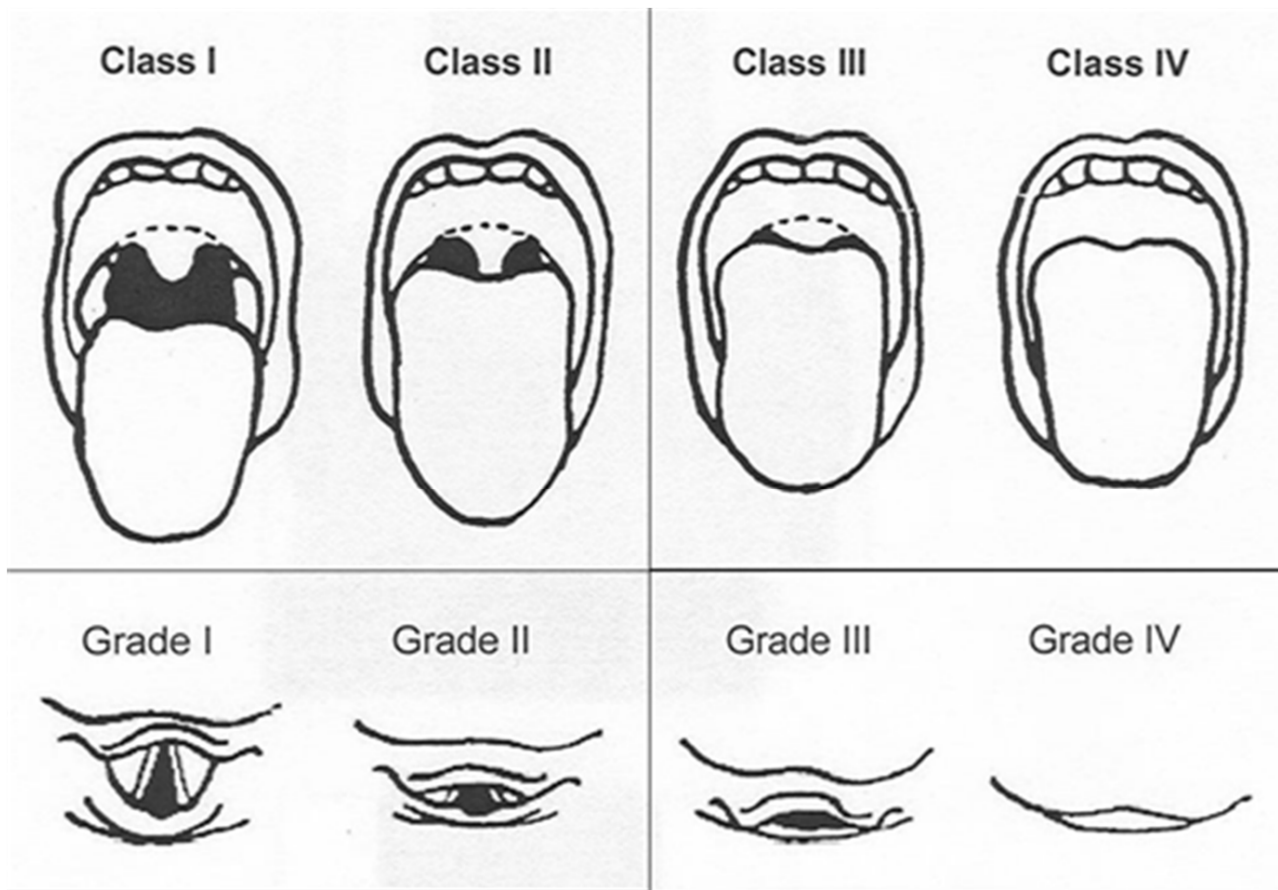


## DOCUMENTATION

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 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 as appropriate with a target of achieving 94 – 98% saturation.
- Consider inserting an oropharyngeal or nasopharyngeal airway adjunct.
- If patient has a tracheostomy tube, see [Tracheostomy Care Procedure – Adult & Pediatric 5.12](#).
- For apnea or hypoventilation and decreased level of consciousness with possible narcotic overdose, administer naloxone. See [Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose Protocol – Adult 2.19A](#).
- 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. See [Supraglottic Airway Procedure – Adult & Pediatric 5.10](#).
- For adults in severe respiratory distress secondary to pulmonary edema, COPD, asthma, pneumonia, near drowning or undifferentiated respiratory distress, consider use of CPAP. See [Continuous Positive Airway Pressure \(CPAP\) Procedure 5.3](#).

## PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

P

- Consider high-flow nasal canula if appropriate administration system is available.
- For impending respiratory failure with intact gag reflex or trismus: consider nasotracheal intubation. See [Nasotracheal Intubation Procedure 5.6](#).
- For apnea/respiratory failure or impending respiratory failure with impaired or absent gag reflex: consider supraglottic airway device or orotracheal intubation. See [Orotacheal Intubation Procedure 5.7](#), [Supraglottic Airway Procedure – Adult & Pediatric 5.10](#).
- 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 \(RSI\) Protocol 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 as appropriate with a target of achieving 94 – 98% saturation.
- If patient has a tracheostomy tube see [Tracheostomy Care Procedure – Adult & Pediatric 5.12](#).
- For respiratory distress:
  - Administer high concentration oxygen (preferably humidified) via mask positioned on face or if child resists, held near face.
  - Administer oxygen as appropriate with a target of achieving 94 – 98%.
  - 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/RAD/Croup Protocol – Pediatric 2.4P](#).



## ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

# A

- For respiratory distress, consider 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. See [Supraglottic Airway Procedure – Adult & Pediatric 5.10](#).

## PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

# P

- Consider high-flow nasal canula if appropriate administration system is available.
- 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 Procedure 5.7](#) or [Supraglottic Airway Procedure – Adult & Pediatric 5.10](#)).
- 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

A/  
P

## 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.

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

## 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 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.

### 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.

A/  
P

Airway Procedure 5.2

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

Airway Procedure 5.3

## 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 - 4 years	>40
Preschooler	4 - 6 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 GI bleed
- Respiratory distress secondary to trauma
- Suspicion of pneumothorax
- Facial trauma or impossible face seal
- Hypotension with MAP < 65 (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, and capnography.
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 H<sub>2</sub>O 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

- If basic foreign body airway maneuvers fail, consider any of the following:
  - In unresponsive patients, visualize the posterior pharynx with a laryngoscope to potentially identify and remove the foreign-body using Magill forceps.
  - 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 Procedure 5.7](#).
  - 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 cricothyrotomy. See [Percutaneous Cricothyrotomy Procedure 5.8](#) or [Surgical Cricothyrotomy 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

- To facilitate routine placement of endotracheal tube.
- 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 Procedure 5.7](#) 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.



## 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-syneprine, if available.
2. Pre-oxygenate the patient.
3. Select the larger and less 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 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 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

Procedure Continues 

## 5.6

# Nasotracheal Intubation

← 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 naris), and confirmation of tube placement including chest rise, bilateral, equal breath sounds, absence of epigastric sounds and end-tidal CO<sub>2</sub> readings.

Sedation is not usually necessary following nasotracheal intubation.

### POST INTUBATION CARE

Sedation:

- Option 1:
  - Ketamine 1 mg/kg ideal body weight (IBW) IV every 5 – 15 minutes, as needed.
- Option 2:
  - Fentanyl 50 – 100 mcg slow IV/IO push. May repeat every 15 minutes as needed for anesthesia (maximum 300 mcg).
  - AND**
  - 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 (maximum 10 mg).

Contact **Medical Direction** for additional dosing.



## 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

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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 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 PCR. **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 CO<sub>2</sub> readings.

Procedure Continues

# 5.7

# Orotracheal Intubation



## PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS – ADULT & PEDIATRIC

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

- Remove tube, monitor oxygen saturation and end-tidal CO<sub>2</sub> **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 Procedure 5.8](#) or [Surgical Cricothyrotomy Procedure 5.11](#).

## POST INTUBATION CARE

Sedation:

- Option 1:
  - Ketamine 1 mg/kg ideal body weight (IBW) IV every 5 – 15 minutes, as needed.
- Option 2:
  - 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). **AND**
  - 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) every 15 minutes as needed (maximum 10 mg).

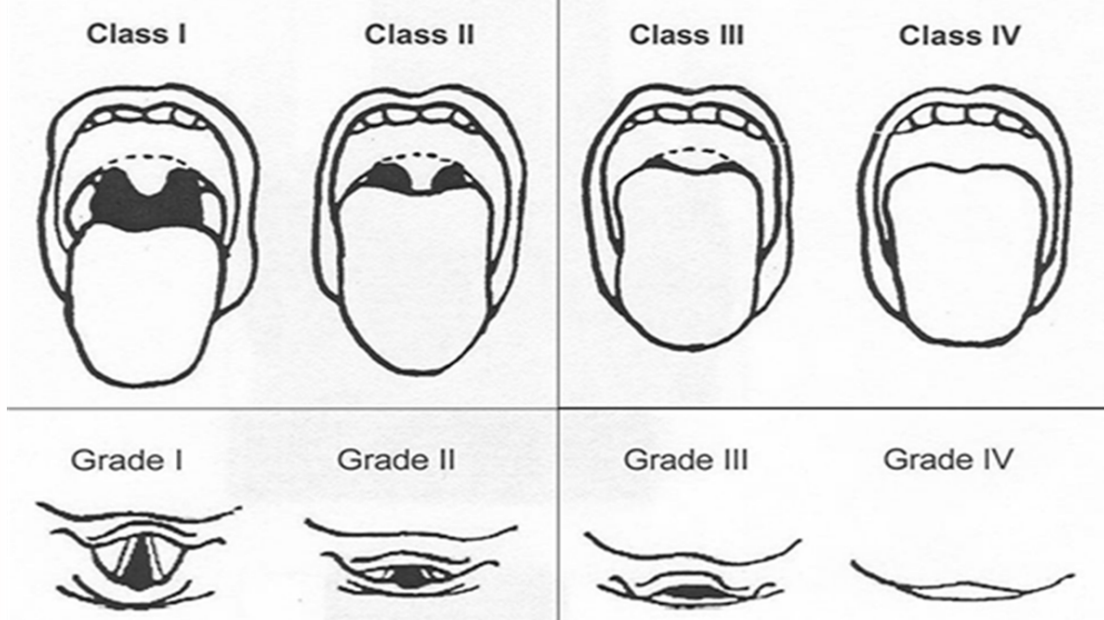


Contact **Medical Direction** for additional dosing.



**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



# Percutaneous Cricothyrotomy 5.8

## PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

### INDICATIONS

- Failed airway: 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 EtCO<sub>2</sub> detector.
16. Confirm placement with the use of breath sounds, pulse ox, EtCO<sub>2</sub> and waveform capnography.
17. Ensure 100% FiO<sub>2</sub> to BVM via supplemental O<sub>2</sub>.

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# 5.9 Suctioning of Inserted Airway

## 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, supraglottic airway 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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Airway Procedure 5.9



# Supraglottic Airway Adult & Pediatric

5.10

This protocol applies to commercially available supraglottic airway devices. These airways must be used as directed by the manufacturer's guidelines. They may be used in all age groups for which the devices are designed. Providers must be trained on and competent with the airway device they will be using.

Note: Double Lumen Devices (e.g., Combitube) are no longer approved.

## ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

### INDICATIONS:

- Cardiac Arrest.

### RELATIVE CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- Severe maxillofacial or oral trauma.
- For devices inserted into the esophagus:
  - The patient has known esophageal disease.
  - The patient has ingested a caustic substance.
  - The patient has burns involving the airway.

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### PROCEDURE:

- Insertion procedure should follow manufacturer guidelines as each device is unique.
- Confirm appropriate placement by symmetrical chest-wall rise, auscultation of equal breath sounds over the chest and a lack of epigastric sounds with bag valve mask ventilation, and waveform capnography, if available.
- Secure the device.
- 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 CO<sub>2</sub> readings.
- Reassess placement frequently, especially after patient movement.

## PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

### 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.

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### POST TUBE PLACEMENT CARE – ADULT AND PEDIATRIC

#### Sedation:

- Option 1:
    - Ketamine 1 mg/kg ideal body weight (IBW) IV every 5 – 15 minutes, as needed.
  - Option 2:
    - 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).
- AND**
- 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) every 15 minutes as needed (maximum 10 mg).

Contact **Medical Direction** for additional dosing.



# 5.11

# Surgical Cricothyrotomy

## PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

### INDICATIONS

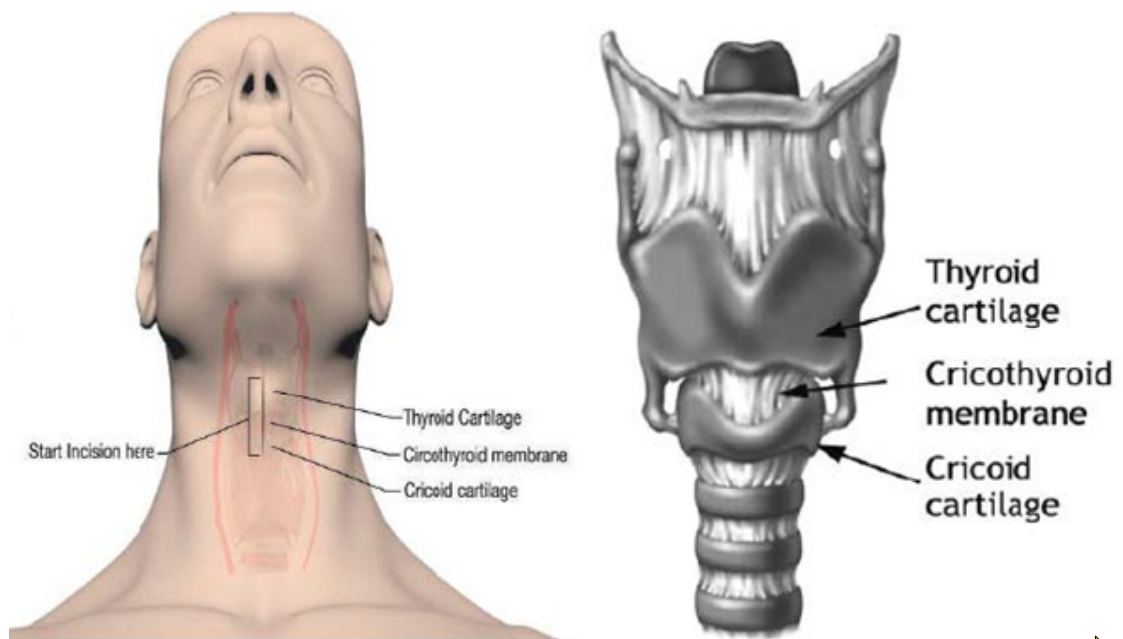
The following protocol is an effort to maintain awareness of a procedure that occurs rarely in the Vermont EMS system. Ultimately, this procedure should be practiced on a regular basis to maintain proficiency. **PLEASE NOTE:** This protocol describes a generally acceptable open cricothyrotomy and will differ from services that employ percutaneous kits. The inclusion of this protocol DOES NOT mandate that all providers use this exact procedural description. Providers should employ the procedure they are trained, practiced and most comfortable with. This protocol is one of multiple acceptable means to perform this procedure. Regardless of the procedure type, it is essential that Vermont paramedics are familiar with the available supplies and materials.

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The primary indication for surgical cricothyrotomy is failure to maintain the airway (including oxygenation, ventilation, and protection) through other less invasive means in a patient 8 years or older with palpable landmarks. In the Vermont EMS experience, this has occurred predominantly in trauma cases with disruption of the face and normal airway anatomy and in choking patients. Even in some dramatic facial injuries, the airway may be adequately managed by sitting the patient up and leaning forward, as long as the other injuries allow.

### MATERIALS/EQUIPMENT

1. Cuffed tracheostomy tube or 6.0 - 7.0 ETT
2. Tracheal hook or bougie
3. Trousseau dilator (if available)
4. Syringe to inflate cuff
5. Scalpel
6. Swabs/skin prep



Protocol Continues

## PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

### PROCEDURE

1. Extend the neck when possible to ensure best access to the trachea. Swab/cleanse the area.
2. Immobilize the trachea with your non-dominant thumb and middle finger while palpating the cricothyroid membrane with your non-dominant index finger. **NOTE:** The cricothyroid membrane is immediately **BELOW** the thyroid cartilage.
3. Make a 3 – 5 cm **vertical** incision over the cricothyroid membrane through the skin and subcutaneous tissues. **NOTE:** Severe bleeding is possible with this procedure and may occur at this or the following steps. Be prepared to suction and provide direct pressure to control bleeding.
4. Palpate the membrane through the incision to confirm anatomy.
5. Make a small (1 cm or less) incision **horizontally** through the cricothyroid membrane.
6. Insert the tracheal hook or bougie in the opening of the membrane and rotate toward the head while maintaining hold of the thyroid cartilage with your non-dominant hand.
7. If Trousseau dilator available, insert into the incision site and spread vertical then rotate 90 degrees until the dilator is parallel with the neck.
8. Insert the cuffed tracheostomy tube or ETT tube into the incision site. Advance until the flanges rest on the skin of the neck (when using tracheostomy tube).
9. Carefully remove the dilator (if used), tracheal hook and obturator of the tracheostomy tube.
10. Inflate the balloon of the tracheostomy tube/ETT.
11. Ventilate and confirm position by physical exam and ETCO<sub>2</sub>.
12. Secure the tube in place.
13. Dress incision site.



## 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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Airway Procedure 5.12

## 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 PCR.

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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Medical Procedure 6.0

### 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

NO

Altered Mental Status OR Evidence of Intoxication

YES

NO

Distracting Injuries Patient or Others

YES

NO

Abnormal Neurological Function

YES

NO

Spinal Tenderness on Palpation (Torticollis in Pediatrics)

YES

NO

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

YES

NO

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 PCR.

- 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.



# COVID-19: Assessment and Transport

6.1

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## PURPOSE

To minimize risk of exposure and spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19).

### INITIAL ASSESSMENT

- Given the community spread of COVID-19, **EMS practitioners who will have close contact (less than 6') with any potential emergency medical patient should don appropriate PPE as described below.**
- If dispatch advises that the patient is suspected of having an infectious disease (COVID-19), EMS practitioners should put on appropriate PPE (see below) before entering the scene.
- If situation is unclear, or cardiac or respiratory arrest, use full PPE (see below).
- EMS practitioners should evaluate for and suspect the patient may have COVID-19 if any of the following signs and symptoms are present:
  - Patients presenting with fever, or cough, or shortness of breath, **OR**
  - Anyone who has had close contact with someone being monitored for or diagnosed with COVID-19 within 14 days of symptom onset, **OR**
  - A history of travel from outside the United States within 14 days of symptom onset.
- Initial assessment should begin from at least 6 feet from the patient and be limited to one EMS practitioner, if possible.
- A face mask should be worn by the patient for source control. If a nasal cannula is in place, a face mask should be worn over the nasal cannula. If a non-rebreather mask is clinically indicated, place a face mask over it.
- Any additional resources requested (transporting agency, intercepting agency, fire, police) should be notified so they can take precautions.
- Refer to the COVID-19 Field Triage Guidance to determine if the patient requires transport to the Emergency Department.

### PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) RECOMMENDATIONS

- Responders who will have close contact (less than 6 feet) with any potential emergency medical patient should don the following personal protective equipment before making contact:
  - Face mask (definition: surgical mask or non-fit-tested "Universal N95 mask"):
    - Fit-tested N95 respirators that offer a higher level of protection should be used instead of a face mask when in the presence of a confirmed COVID-19 case or when performing or present for an aerosol-generating procedure.
  - Eye protection (i.e., goggles or disposable face shield that fully covers the front and sides of the face). Personal eyeglasses and contact lenses are **NOT** considered adequate eye protection.
  - A single pair of disposable patient examination gloves. Change gloves if they become torn or heavily contaminated.
  - Isolation gown.
    - Prioritize gowns for aerosol-generating procedures, care activities where splashes and sprays are anticipated, and high-contact patient care activities that provide opportunities for transfer of pathogens to the hands and clothing of EMS clinicians (e.g., moving patient onto a stretcher).
- Drivers should wear PPE if providing patient care. After completing patient care and before entering an isolated driver's compartment, the driver should remove

Protocol Continues

Medical Procedure 6.1

# COVID-19: Assessment and Transport

## 6.1

Protocol Continues

### PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) RECOMMENDATIONS (CONTINUED)

- and dispose of PPE and perform hand hygiene to avoid contaminating the compartment.
  - If the ambulance does not have an isolated driver's compartment, the driver should remove the face shield or goggles, gown and gloves and perform hand hygiene. An N-95 respirator/PAPR or face mask should continue to be used during transport.
- After transfer of care, EMS practitioners should remove and discard PPE and perform hand hygiene. Used PPE should be discarded in accordance with routine procedures.
- All personnel should avoid touching their face while working.
- Other required aspects of standard precautions (e.g., injection safety, hand hygiene) are not emphasized in this document but can be found in Vermont's [Bloodborne/Airborne Pathogens Policy – 8.4](#).
- If experiencing supply chain interruptions, consider CDC guidance to reuse N-95 respirators:
  - The CDC recommends re-use of an N-95 respirator up to five times unless the manufacturer has more specific reuse recommendations.
  - N95 respirators used during aerosol generating procedures or respirators that have been contaminated with blood, respiratory or nasal secretions, or other bodily fluids from patients should be immediately discarded and not reused.
  - If a respirator is removed between uses, it should be hung in a designated storage area or kept in a clean, breathable container such as a paper bag between uses. To minimize potential cross-contamination, store respirators so that they do not touch each other and the person using the respirator is clearly identified. Storage containers should be disposed of or cleaned regularly.
- *The outside surfaces of a used N-95 respirator should be considered contaminated.* Consider the following steps in the donning process to prevent cross contamination:
  - Always use clean gloves when inspecting, handling, donning, and performing a user seal check on a reused respirator.
  - Avoid touching the inside of the respirator.
  - Prior to reusing, inspect the integrity of the respirator, checking for obvious signs of damage.
  - Discard gloves after the N95 respirator is donned and any adjustments are made to ensure the respirator is sitting comfortably on your face with a good seal.
  - Clean hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer after touching or adjusting the respirator.
  - The CDC recommends using a cleanable face shield (preferred) or a surgical mask over an N95 respirator and/or other steps (e.g., masking patients, use of engineering controls), when feasible to reduce surface contamination of the re-used respirator.
- The full CDC guidance on reusing respirators can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html>

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Medical Procedure 6.1

Situation	Procedure	PPE Standard
Suspected COVID-19 Patient (Within 6 feet of any EMS patient)	Non-Aerosol Generating Routine Patient Care	Face Mask or Non-fit-tested Universal N95 Gown Gloves Face Shield or Goggles
Suspected COVID-19 Patient (Within 6 feet of any EMS patient) Cardiac or Respiratory Arrest	Aerosol Generating Procedure MDI/Nebulizer, IN Naloxone BVM or CPAP Supraglottic Airway or Intubation CPR	Fit-Tested N95 Respirator or PAPR Gown Gloves Face Shield or Goggles
Known COVID-19 Patient (Lab Confirmed)	All Patient Care Activities	Fit-tested N95 Respirator or PAPR Gown Gloves Face Shield or Goggles

Protocol Continues

# COVID-19: Assessment and Transport

6.1

Protocol Continues

## AEROSOL-GENERATING PROCEDURES

- To limit risk, avoid aerosol-generating procedures, if possible.
- If possible, consult with **Medical Direction** before performing aerosol-generating procedures.
- Practitioners should wear N95 respirator/PAPR, gown, gloves and face shield or goggles.
- EMS practitioners should exercise caution if an aerosol-generating procedure (e.g., bag valve mask (BVM) ventilation, oropharyngeal suctioning, endotracheal intubation, nebulizer treatment, continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP), or resuscitation involving emergency intubation or cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is necessary).
- BVMs, and other ventilatory equipment, should be equipped with HEPA filtration to filter expired air.
- If possible, the rear doors of the ambulance should be opened, and the HVAC system should be activated during aerosol-generating procedures.
- Consider use of MDI (metered dose inhaler) preferentially over nebulizer.
- Consider use of supraglottic airway preferentially over endotracheal intubation.
  - **Supraglottic airways (SGA):** Please note that use of a SGA (King or i-Gel) is considered a high-risk aerosolizing procedure. **It is critically important to plug the side/gastric port on a SGA to prevent large volume spread of airborne pathogens.**

## TRANSPORT

- EMS practitioners should notify the receiving healthcare facility if they suspect COVID-19 so that appropriate precautions may be taken prior to arrival. Share any known details regarding signs/symptoms, travel, or contact history.
- During transport, limit the number of practitioners in the patient compartment to essential personnel to minimize possible exposures.
- Keep the patient separated from other people as much as possible.
- Family members and other contacts of suspect patients should not ride in the ambulance. If unavoidable, they should wear a face mask.
- Isolate the ambulance driver from the patient:
  - Close the door/window between these compartments before bringing the patient on board.
    - Tape opening with plastic if there is no door or window that can close.
- Use non-recirculated mode to ventilate ambulance.
- Open the outside air vents in the driver area and turn on the rear exhaust ventilation fans to the highest setting.
- Follow hospital protocol for transfer of patient.
- Carefully doff and dispose of PPE and perform hand hygiene.

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Medical Procedure 6.1

Protocol Continues

Protocol Continues

## DECONTAMINATION

Action Completed	Action	Comments
	Leave the doors of the ambulance open during transfer of the patient and decontamination.	This is to allow for air changes to remove potentially-infectious particles.
	EMS practitioners should wear a surgical face mask, gown and gloves. A face shield or goggles should also be worn if splashes during cleaning are anticipated.	This is to protect the provider from exposures during decontamination.
	All surfaces that came in contact with the patient or materials contaminated during patient care should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.	Link to Disinfectants: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2">https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2</a>
	Clean and disinfect reusable patient care equipment before use on another patient.	
	After an aerosol-generating procedure, clean and disinfect horizontal surfaces around the patient.	
	Follow standard operating procedures for containing and laundering used linen.	Avoid shaking the linen.
	Follow standard operating procedures for the containment and disposal of used PPE.	
	Perform hand hygiene.	

## PREPARATION AND COMMUNICATION

- EMS providers wearing all recommended PPE per above are considered to be low risk. If providers were not wearing PPE and are concerned about exposure, please call 802-863-7240.
- For additional information/explanation of this protocol, please see [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) EMS Response](#).
- EMS agencies can refer to the [Interim U.S. Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure in a Healthcare Setting to Patients with Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) for additional information.
- EMS units should have infection control policies and procedures in place, including education for safely donning and doffing PPE. Below are links for videos that UVM HealthNet Regional Transport Service produced and shared with Vermont EMS.
  - PPE Donning - <https://youtu.be/Re2667Ho5UA>
  - PPE Doffing - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zlwefwlg6fo&t=6s>
- Ensure EMS providers are medically cleared, trained, and initially fit tested for N95 respirators.
- EMS units should have an adequate supply of PPE. More information about optimizing PPE stock can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/>.
- If your facility is experiencing PPE shortages, use the link below to make a request: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=O5O0IK26PEOcAnDtzHVZxnYHsES1qh9Hs2EGYmwc2tBURDVPsDjDS1hUTzdJMfIXVDZHQ1JHS1cxViQIQCN0PWcu>.
- Ensure an adequate supply of disinfectants approved for SARS-CoV-2: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>.

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# COVID-19: Field Triage Guidance 6.2

## PURPOSE

To identify patients that are safe to assess and not transport to a hospital during widespread cases of confirmed COVID-19 virus. For additional information/explanation of this protocol, please see [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) EMS Response](#).

**THIS PROTOCOL IS ONLY AUTHORIZED FOR PATIENTS WITH SIGNS OR SYMPTOMS CONSISTENT WITH COVID-19 (fever, or cough, or shortness of breath), OR CONCERNING CONTACT OR TRAVEL HISTORY.**

## INDICATION FOR COVID-19 FIELD TRIAGE PROTOCOL

Local EMS District Medical Advisor has decided to enact field triage guidance based on local indications and consultation with hospital leadership, and Vermont EMS.

### INITIAL ASSESSMENT

- Responders who will have close contact (less than 6 feet) with any potential emergency medical patient should don appropriate personal protective equipment before making contact:
- If dispatch advises that the patient is:
  - Suspected of having infectious disease (COVID-19) or has had close contact with someone being evaluated for or diagnosed with COVID-19, **OR**
  - Patient is exhibiting symptoms including fever, or cough, or shortness of breath, **THEN**
    - EMS practitioners should put on appropriate PPE before entering the scene.
    - Initial assessment should begin from a distance of at least 6 feet from the patient and be limited to one EMS practitioner if possible.

### EVALUATE PATIENT FOR SEVERITY OF DISEASE

- **Respiratory Distress?** *severe breathlessness, unable to finish a sentence in one breath, use of accessory muscles, respiratory exhaustion*
- **Increased Respiratory Rate?** *over 30 breaths per minute in adult*
- **Oxygen Saturations less than 93% on RA (room air)?**
- **Evidence of Severe Dehydration or Shock?** *SBP less than 90 mmHg and/or DBP less than 60 mmHG, reduced skin turgor, severely dry mucous membranes, dizziness on postural changes*
- **Changes in Mental Status?** *any alteration of mental status, confusion, agitation, seizures, drowsiness, GCS < 15*
- **Chest Pain (other than mild with coughing)?**
- **Patient with worsening symptoms?** *especially in second week of illness*
- **Any history of immunosuppression?** *patients treated for HIV, patients receiving chemotherapy, transplant patients*

No to  
All

**All NO? Patient less ill.**  
Proceed to next page.

Yes to  
Any

**Any YES? Patient clinically ill.**

Proceed with standard medical treatment protocols. Patient should be transported to the hospital, maintaining infection control principles of limiting exposure to patient, masking patient, wearing appropriate PPE, and minimizing aerosol-generating procedures, when possible.

Alert hospital as soon as operationally feasible.

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Medical Procedure 6.2



## 6.2 COVID-19: Field Triage Guidance

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Continued from previous page

Consider the patient's age

Consider patient's past medical history

Assess for underlying pulmonary, cardiac or renal disease, or underlying malignancy

Evaluate the patient's eligibility for home care

Are there caregivers in the home?  
Is there a separate room where the patient can recover without sharing immediate space with others?  
Are there resources for access to food or other necessities?  
Are there medically-fragile patients in the home?

Discuss the feasibility of home care with Medical Direction 

Patients most appropriate for home care include those with the following characteristics:

1. Meet all criteria for "Less Ill."
2. Ages between 5 and 65.
3. Is generally healthy without significant burden of underlying medical disease.
4. Has support, resources and caregivers in the home with no medically-fragile co-inhabitants.

### If Home Care Deemed Appropriate by Medical Direction

1. Leave the CDC home instructions with patient (attached to this protocol).
2. Assure the patient has a support system.
3. Assure the patient is competent.
4. Assure that the patient consents to not being transported.
5. Suggest the patient contact their primary care physician.
6. Patient should be advised to follow up with health resources as per **local plan**.
7. Ask the patient to call 9-1-1 for worsening symptoms, including worsening dyspnea.

### If Home Care Deemed NOT Appropriate by Medical Direction

Transport patient to the hospital, maintaining infection control principles of limiting exposure to patient, masking patient, wearing appropriate PPE, and minimizing aerosol-generating procedures, when possible.

Alert hospital as soon as operationally feasible.



# 10 ways to manage respiratory symptoms at home

**If you have fever, cough, or shortness of breath, call your healthcare provider. They may tell you to manage your care from home. Follow these tips:**

- 1. Stay home** from work, school, and away from other public places. If you must go out, avoid using any kind of public transportation, ridesharing, or taxis.



- 2. Monitor your symptoms** carefully. If your symptoms get worse, call your healthcare provider immediately.



- 3. Get rest and stay hydrated.**



- 4.** If you have a medical appointment, **call the healthcare provider** ahead of time and tell them that you have or may have COVID-19.



- 5.** For medical emergencies, call 911 and **notify the dispatch personnel** that you have or may have COVID-19.



- 6. Cover your cough and sneezes.**



- 7. Wash your hands often** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



- 8.** As much as possible, **stay** in a specific room and **away from other people** in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available. If you need to be around other people in or outside of the home, wear a facemask.



- 9. Avoid sharing personal items** with other people in your household, like dishes, towels, and bedding.



- 10. Clean all surfaces** that are touched often, like counters, tabletops, and doorknobs. Use household cleaning sprays or wipes according to the label instructions.



For more information: [www.cdc.gov/COVID19](http://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)

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# Double Sequential Defibrillation – Adult

6.3

## 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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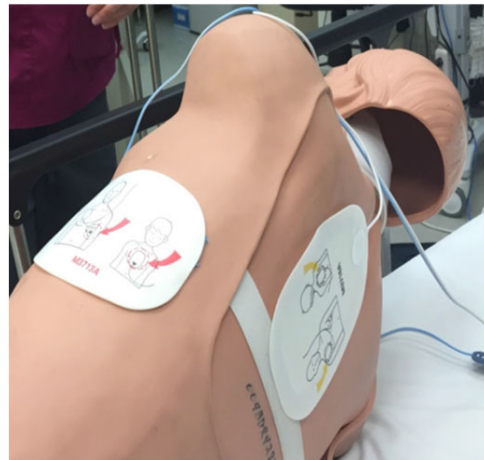
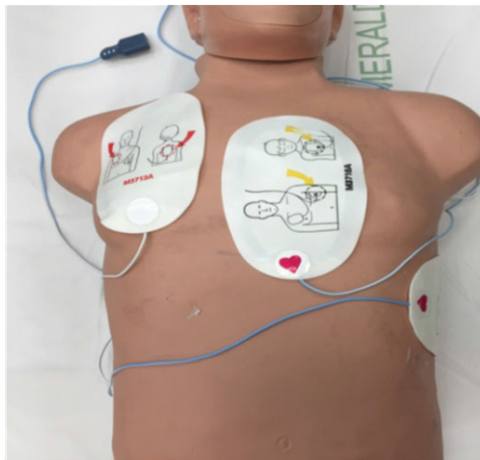


Photo Courtesy of Emergency Medicine Reviews and Perspectives

### 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 on 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.
- **Caution:** There are case reports of monitors being damaged by this procedure.



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  $> 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$  or  $38.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) **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**:

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**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



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 of in puncture-proof, sealed containers.
- Consider giving the patient oral medicine to reduce nausea. See [Nausea/Vomiting Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 2.12](#).
- If patient is vomiting, give them a large red biohazard bag to contain any emesis.
- See <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/clinicians/emergency-services/>

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Medical Procedure 6.4

# 6.5 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.** Agencies are strongly encouraged to develop the capability to transmit ECGs to receiving hospitals.

## EMT/ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

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

### INDICATIONS

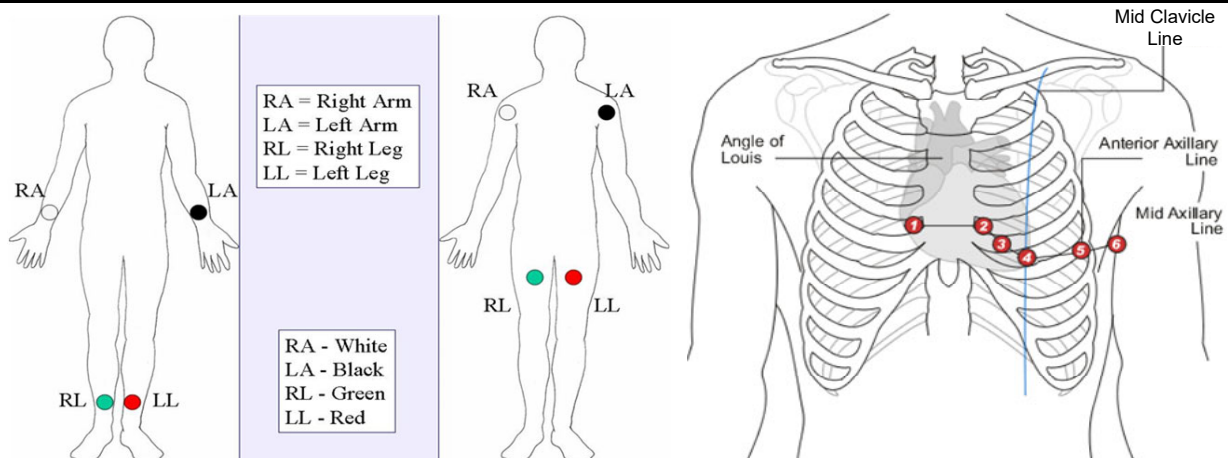
- Congestive Heart Failure/Pulmonary Edema
- Dysrhythmias, palpitations
- Suspected Acute Coronary Syndrome (chest, jaw, arm, or epigastric discomfort, diaphoresis, weakness)
- Syncope
- Shortness of breath

### 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 – 4<sup>TH</sup> intercostal space at the right sternal border.
  - V2 – 4<sup>TH</sup> intercostal space at the left sternal border.
  - V3 – Directly between V2 and V4.
  - V4 – 5<sup>TH</sup> 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 6.5





## 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.
- If IV access cannot be obtained, IO access may be used as a vascular device in cardiac arrest.
- In cardiac arrest, proximal humeral is preferred over anterior tibial in adults.

### 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.

Procedure Continues

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Medical Procedure 6.6



**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.**

## 6.6

# Intraosseous Access

Procedure Continued

### PROCEDURE

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

1. Identify the bony landmarks as appropriate for device.
2. Choose correct needle size: 45 mm proximal humerus, 25 mm anterior tibial, 15 mm anterior tibial skin and bone (thin).
3. Prep the site. Scrub site with alcohol wipe or other cleaning solution and allow to dry.
4. Insert IO needle. Follow manufacturer's instructions for preferred sites.
5. 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.
6. Attach IV tubing, with or without stopcock.
7. **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).
8. Flush with 10 mL of 0.9% NaCl rapid bolus x 3 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.
9. 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).
10. Apply ID bracelet to indicate patient has had an IO placed or attempted.

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Medical Procedure 6.6



**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.

## EMT/ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS– ADULT & PEDIATRIC

### BACKGROUND

Measles typically presents in adults and children as an acute, viral illness characterized by fever and a generalized maculopapular rash (small, red, flat or raised bumps). The early signs may include cough, conjunctivitis, and runny nose. Koplik spots – blue-white spots on the mucosal tissue of the mouth and gums – are occasionally seen. The rash usually starts on the face, proceeds down the body, and may include the palms and soles. The rash, which lasts for several days, initially appears discrete, but may become confluent before fading in order of appearance. The time between exposure and rash onset averages 14 days but may range from 7 to 21 days. Of note, immunocompromised patients may not develop the rash. Complications include diarrhea, otitis media, pneumonia, hepatitis, and encephalitis.

Measles is transmitted by airborne particles, droplets, and direct contact with the respiratory secretions of an infected person. Patients are considered to be contagious for a total of nine days - from 4 days before through 4 days after the rash appears with date of rash onset counting as day 0.

### PURPOSE

There have been an increased number of measles cases and multiple outbreaks in the U.S. These guidelines address precautions that should be taken by EMS personnel when evaluating and transporting persons with suspected measles infection.

### PROCEDURE

In addition to routine infection prevention practices including standard precautions, VT EMS recommends the following:

1. Vaccination
  - All EMS personnel should have documented evidence of immunity to measles. Entities responsible for EMS providers may want to review their current policies regarding documentation of immunity for staff, including volunteers. This information should be documented and readily available at the work location.
  - Presumptive evidence of immunity to measles for EMS providers includes **2 doses of MMR vaccine** or **laboratory evidence of immunity** (measles IgG positive).
  - First responders born before 1957 who lack laboratory evidence (e.g., blood test) of immunity or laboratory confirmation of previous disease should be vaccinated with 2 doses of MMR vaccine at the appropriate interval.
2. Protective Equipment and Procedures
  - All EMS personnel should use standard, droplet, and airborne precautions during all encounters with patients suspected to have measles. Measles is a highly contagious viral infection. In order to minimize risk, the following is recommended:
    - Only those who are known to be immune should approach patients who may have measles.
    - EMS personnel should wear an N-95 particulate respirator or a respirator with similar effectiveness in preventing airborne transmission. Please note that particulate respirators should only be used as part of a comprehensive respiratory protection program that includes appropriate screening, training and fit-testing. Patients should wear a surgical mask, if they are able to tolerate it safely.

Procedure Continues

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## 6.7

# Measles Guidance

← Procedure Continued

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3. Notification to Receiving Facility
  - Receiving facilities must be notified **PRIOR** to arrival of known or suspected measles patients to facilitate implementation of appropriate infection prevention procedures.
  - In health care settings, patients with suspected measles should be placed immediately in an airborne infection (negative-pressure) isolation room if one is available and, if possible, should not be sent to other parts of the hospital for examination or testing purposes.
4. Transportation
  - Because measles virus can contaminate surfaces or hang in the air for up to two hours, ambulances and transport vehicles should be **taken out of service for two hours** after transport of a patient with known or suspected measles.
  - Routine cleaning of the transport vehicle should be done.
5. Report and Evaluation of Exposure
  - **Make note of all EMS personnel** who were potentially exposed to measles during the time the suspect measles patient was being treated by EMS and for up to 2 hours after.
  - If measles is confirmed in the suspect patient, exposed people will need to be assessed for measles immunity.
    - EMS personnel who are potentially exposed to measles should consult with health care and public health professionals.
    - Health care personnel should evaluate risk and recommend and/or provide appropriate post-exposure prophylaxis when indicated (i.e., one dose of MMR within 72 hours of exposure for first responders with no proof of immunity).
    - In consultation with the Health Department, first responders who are exposed and do not have proof of immunity may be furloughed from day 5 through day 21 following exposure.
    - Personnel who develop symptoms consistent with measles, including fever, rash, runny nose, cough and red, watery eyes, should seek medical attention (calling ahead before going to the medical facility so proper precautions can be taken to reduce potential exposure).
    - All suspected cases of measles must be reported immediately to the Health Department at 802-863-7240 (available 24/7).

# Needle Decompression Thoracostomy (NDT)

6.8

## PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

### INDICATIONS

Patients who are assessed as having an immediate life threat due to tension hemothorax or pneumothorax with absent breath sounds, jugular vein distension, and/or tracheal shift, and evidence of hemodynamic compromise should be rapidly decompressed.

In addition, needle decompression is indicated in patients who have experienced cardiac arrest secondary to blunt or penetrating trauma (see [Traumatic Cardiac Arrest Protocol 4.9](#)). Once catheters have been placed in these patients, they should not be removed.

### PROCEDURE

#### 1. Size Equipment

- Adult 10 – 14 ga. 3- $\frac{1}{4}$ " catheter (catheters for NDT strongly preferred)
- Pediatric 16 – 18 ga. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " – 2" catheter

#### 2. Select Site

- Adult:
  - Lateral site: 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> intercostal space (ICS) at the anterior axillary line (AAL) preferred, or
  - Anterior site: 2<sup>nd</sup> ICS at the mid-clavicular line (MCL).



- Pediatric:
  - 4<sup>th</sup> ICS at the AAL preferred.

#### 3. Confirm proper placement site.

#### 4. Cleanse insertion site using aseptic technique.

#### 5. Insert the needle/catheter unit at a perpendicular angle to the chest wall all the way to the hub, then hold the needle/catheter unit in place for 5 – 10 seconds before removing the needle in order to allow for full decompression of the pleural space to occur.

#### 6. Observe for signs of a successful NDC, using specific metrics such as an observed hiss of air escaping from the chest during the NDC process, a decrease in respiratory distress, an increase in hemoglobin oxygen saturation, and/or an improvement in signs of shock that may be present.

#### 7. Look for air rush, plunger movement, or aspirated fluid.

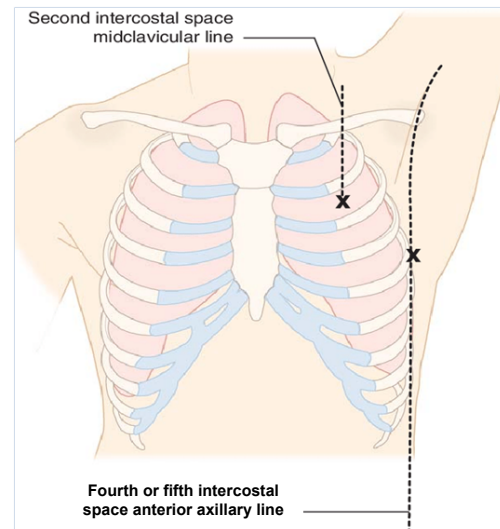
#### 8. Stabilize insertion site.

#### 9. Reassess ventilatory status.

#### 10. Continually monitor patient status.

### CONTRAINDICATION

Patients whose tension pneumothorax can be relieved by occlusive dressing management / removal from an open chest wound.



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Medical Procedure 6.8

### Pearls

- Catheter patency should be reassessed during transport, and a second decompression may be needed to maintain ventilatory status if reaccumulation, catheter occlusion, or dislocation occur.
- Anterior axillary line preferred in pediatric population due to anatomic and chest wall thickness differences.
- Any blood aspirated should be noted and recorded for the receiving facility.



**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 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 PCR 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.

E/A

**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)

## 6.10 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. Rinse wound with sterile water or saline 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.

# Tourniquet & Hemostatic Agent – 6.11

## 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 2.22A](#) or [Shock Protocol – Pediatric 2.22P](#).
- Minimize scene time.
- Call for Paramedic intercept, if available. If not available, call for AEMT intercept.
- See [Trauma Triage and Transport Decision Protocol 8.20](#).
- 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.
  - Secure tourniquet per manufacturer instructions.
  - Note time of tourniquet application and communicate this to receiving providers.
  - Dress wounds.
  - 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 junctional tourniquet where indicated. Follow manufacturer's instructions.
- 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 utilize a topical hemostatic bandage in a gauze format that supports wound packing.



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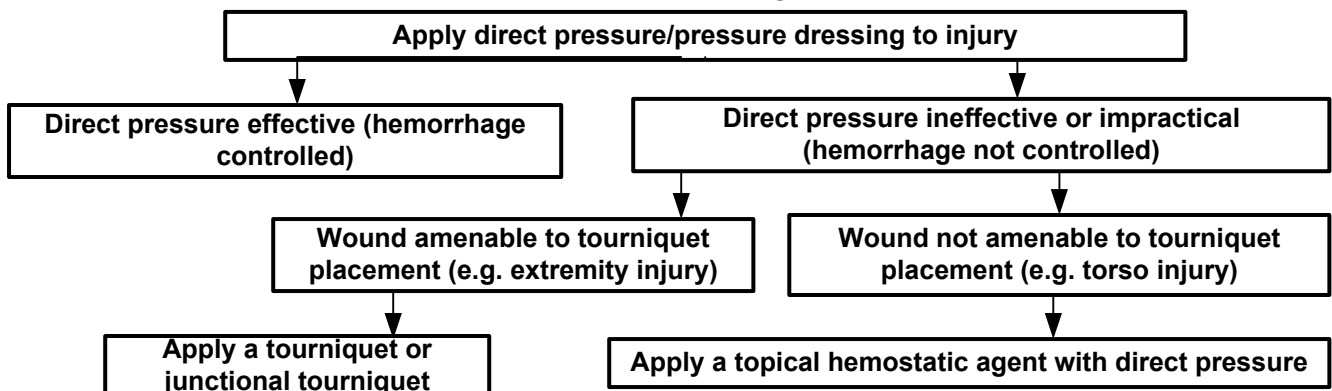
### ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS

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- 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.

# 6.12 Vascular Access Via Pre-Existing Central Catheter

## 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.

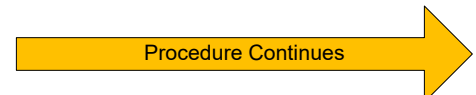
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### PROCEDURE

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 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. Run fluid 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 6.12

← Procedure Continued

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## 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 6.12



**ADVANCED EMT/PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS****INDICATIONS**

- Confirmation of endotracheal tube placement (required). See [Nasotracheal Intubation Procedure 5.6](#) / [Orotracheal Intubation Procedure 5.7](#).
- Confirmation of supraglottic airway placement.
- Routine use of ETCO<sub>2</sub> for monitoring ventilation status is appropriate including:
  - BVM ventilation.
  - CPAP.
  - Respiratory distress.
  - Altered mental status.
  - All invasive airway procedures or blind airway devices.
  - Possible sepsis.
- 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 ETCO<sub>2</sub> 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. ETCO<sub>2</sub> should remain in place with the airway and be monitored until transfer of care in hospital.
4. Any loss of ETCO<sub>2</sub> detection or waveform may indicate an airway problem and should be immediately addressed.

**NOTES**

- There are three determinants of waveform capnography:
  1. Alveolar ventilation.
  2. Pulmonary/vascular perfusion.
  3. Metabolism.
- Sudden loss of waveform capnography:
  - Tube dislodged.
  - Circuit disconnected/obstructed.
  - Apnea.
- High levels of CO<sub>2</sub> (> 45 mmHg):
  - Hypoventilation/CO<sub>2</sub> retention.
- Low CO<sub>2</sub> (< 25 mmHg):
  - Hyperventilation.
  - Low perfusion: shock, pulmonary embolus, sepsis.
- Cardiac Arrest: In low-pulmonary blood flow states, such as cardiac arrest, the primary determinant of waveform capnography is blood flow. Capnography levels may be 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 ETCO<sub>2</sub> level to 40 mmHg or greater indicates substantial improvement in blood flow and likely return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC).
  - An ETCO<sub>2</sub> 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](#).

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## 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 

# 7.0

# Interfacility Transfers



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 5](#). Procedures or medications in Appendix 5 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.





## 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.

# 7.1 Interfacility Transport of Patients With IV Heparin by Paramedics

## 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 

# Interfacility Transport of Patients With IV Heparin by Paramedics

7.1

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.

Prerequisite Protocol 7.1



# 7.2 Rapid Sequence Intubation (RSI)

## P

### 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 / O<sub>2</sub> saturation/ ETCO<sub>2</sub>.
- 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.

- **PEDIATRIC:** 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 5.7](#) to place the ETT.

Protocol Continues 



#### SUCCINYLCHOLINE CONTRAINDICATIONS:

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

# Rapid Sequence Intubation (RSI) 7.2

Protocol Continued

## PARAMEDIC - PREREQUISITES REQUIRED - Continued

### PROOF OF PLACEMENT

- Assess for proper placement by following the procedure outlined in [Orotracheal Intubation Procedure 5.7](#).

### POST-INTUBATION CARE

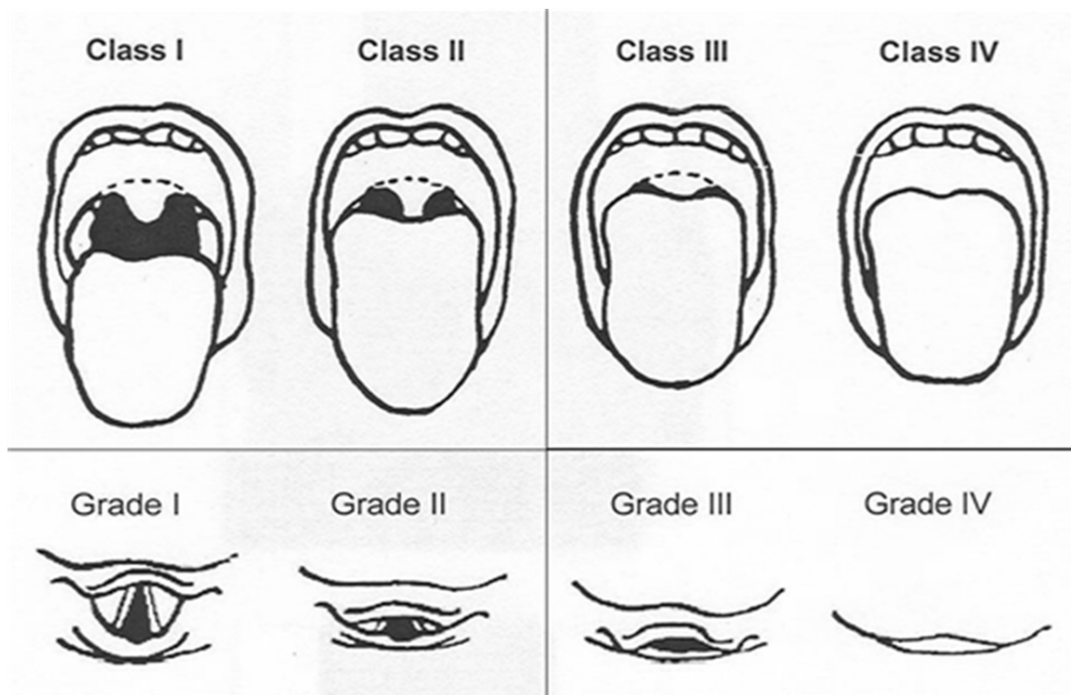
- Sedation:
  - Midazolam 2.5 – 5 mg IV/IO, every 5 – 10 minutes as needed for sedation (maximum 20 mg) **OR**
  - Lorazepam 1 – 2 mg IV/IO every 15 minutes as needed for sedation (maximum 10 mg) **AND**
  - Fentanyl 50 – 100 mcg IV/IO. May repeat every 15 minutes as needed for anesthesia (maximum dose 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 5.7](#).



Prerequisite Protocol 7.2



Classifications of Oropharyngeal and Laryngoscopy Views

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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 MAP < 65 (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](http://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 Triage, Care & Transport 8.2

## 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 that 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 whose:

- 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 



## 8.2 Bariatric Triage, Care & 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.

### 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 8.3

## BLOODBORNE 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 standard precautions.

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 bloodborne 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 

## 8.3 Bloodborne/Airborne Pathogens

Policy Continued

### 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 bloodborne 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). Follow guidelines below or local receiving hospital protocol.

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 hospitals record all medical communications.

## 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.
- Advise if the patient meets the criteria for stroke, trauma, STEMI or sepsis alert.
- Patient's age, sex, and orientation 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.



## 8.5

# 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 8.6

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](#)).

## 8.7

# 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 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)

8.8

Medical Policy 8.8

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 \(link to form\)](#).

- 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. A verbal order documented with the clinician's name, and signed and dated by the patient's nurse or social worker is acceptable.
  - 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. A verbal order documented with the clinician's name, and signed and dated by the patient's nurse or social worker is acceptable. 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 

# 8.8 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, a verbal order documented, and signed and dated by the patient's nurse or social worker, or the patient has a DNR identification - Do Not initiate CPR or other resuscitation measures.
    - Do not perform chest compressions or 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. In Section H, check for clinician signature. A verbal order documented with the clinician's name, and signed and dated by the patient's nurse or social worker is acceptable. 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, or a verbal order documented, and signed and dated by the patient's nurse or social worker, 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)

8.8



## 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.



# 8.8

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

Patient Name / D.O.B. \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

<b>DNR/COLST</b> <b>CLINICIAN ORDERS</b> <b>for DNR/CPR and OTHER LIFE SUSTAINING TREATMENT</b>		Patient Last Name <hr/> Patient First/Middle Initial <hr/> Date of Birth <hr/>
FIRST follow these orders, THEN contact Clinician.		
(If patient/resident has no pulse and/or no respirations)		
<b>A</b>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <b>DO NOT RESUSCITATE (DNR)</b> </div> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>DNR/Do Not Attempt Resuscitation (Allow Natural Death)</b>	<b>CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION (CPR)</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>CPR/Attempt Resuscitation</b>
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		
<b>A-1 Basis for DNR Order</b> Informed Consent - Complete Section A-2 Futility - Complete Section A-3		
<b>A-2 Informed Consent</b> 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) _____		
<b>A-3 Futility (required if no consent)</b>  <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: _____		
<b>A-4 Facility DNR Protocol (required if applicable)</b>  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.)		
<b>A-5 DNR Identification (optional)</b>  I have authorized issuance of a DNR Identification (ID) to this patient. Form of ID: _____		
Certification and signature for DNR	<b>A-6 Clinician Certifications and Signature for CPR/DNR (required)</b> 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: _____	
<b>GIVE COPY TO PATIENT AND REPRESENTATIVE</b> <b>SEND FORM WITH PATIENT WHENEVER TRANSFERRED OR DISCHARGED</b>		

Medical Policy 8.8

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

8.8

Patient Name / D.O.B. \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Policy 8.8

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

# 8.8

## 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

<b>H</b>	<b>Informed Consent and Clinician Signature for COLST Order (Sections B through G)</b>		
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			
<b>Clinician Signature for COLST</b>			
_____ Signature of Clinician		_____ Printed Name of Clinician	
Dated: _____			

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

<b>Other Contact Information (Optional)</b>			
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 8.8

**This protocol is specific to those patients enrolled in Hospice. Treatment should be based on consultation with their Hospice team.**

## Introduction

The treatment goals of hospice patients differ significantly from those of other patients. Maintaining patient dignity and quality of life, rather than treating medical conditions, is the objective. If a specific cause of discomfort is identified (e.g., bronchospasm), traditional EMS treatment may be appropriate depending on the invasiveness of the therapy and the patient's preferences. Hospice patients generally wish to remain at home and transport to the hospital should be the exception.

Many hospice patients will have a hospice comfort kit that contains medications that patient's caregivers are instructed to use to treat commonly encountered medical issues.

If the patient is unable to make medical decisions and the hospice team cannot be contacted, determine the patient's wishes and contact **Medical Direction**.

EMS providers should avoid the following interventions:

- Sirens, lights or aggressive interventions with family or caregivers.
- IV therapy (except where other forms of medication administration are not possible).
- Cardiac resuscitation: CPR, resuscitation medications, BVM ventilations.
- Cardiac pacing, cardioversion, and defibrillation.
- Hospice patients should not be transported to the hospital except where transport is specifically requested by the patient or their healthcare agent or surrogate, and preferably only after consultation with the hospice team and exhaustion of other treatment pathways that do not require transport to the hospital.

## EMT/ADVANCED EMT STANDING ORDERS

- Routine Patient Care.
- Contact the hospice team (preferred) or **Medical Direction** to coordinate care and determine administration of hospice kit medications.
- Consider paramedic response for medication administration.
- Breakthrough Pain: Suggest administration of breakthrough pain medication by patients / families. For pain of sudden onset, seek to determine and ameliorate or treat the underlying cause (e.g., pathological fracture).
- Anxiety: Consider potential causes for patient's anxiety, such as increased pain and shortness of breath.
- Dyspnea: Administer oxygen via nasal cannula to relieve shortness of breath and achieve a respiration rate of < 20. Use a fan to blow air directly at the patient's face.
- Constipation: Suggest administration of constipation medication by patient/family.
- Nausea/Vomiting: Suggest administration of nausea medication by patient/family.
- Terminal Secretions: Reassure family that noisy breathing is generally not distressing to the patient. Suggest administration of medication by patients/families.
- Terminal Dehydration: Moisten lips with petroleum jelly; use artificial saliva/mouth sponges and ice chips.
- Confusion/Delirium: Speak slowly and calmly to the person. Remind the patient of where they are, and who you are. Avoid contradicting the patient's statements. Ensure a patient's hearing aid and glasses are available. Limit activity/noise in the room.

**E/A**

Protocol Continues 




 Protocol Continues
**PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDERS**

Consider following the written orders for medications in hospice kit.

As an adjunct to the hospice kit medication consider:

Breakthrough Pain:

- See [Pain Management Protocol – Adult 2.18A](#). (All IV formulated opiates may be given PO for hospice patients.)

Anxiety:

- Midazolam: 2.5 mg IN, repeat every 10 – 15 minutes as needed to a maximum of 7.5mg
- Lorazepam: 0.25 – 2 mg PO or SL.

Dyspnea:

- Morphine or other opiate, dosing per [Pain Management Protocol – Adult 2.18A](#), maintaining respiratory rate above 8 bpm.
- Bronchospasm: See [Asthma/COPD/RAD – Adult 2.4A](#), subject to patient's goals.
- Heart Failure: See [Congestive Heart Failure \(Pulmonary Edema\) Protocol 3.3](#), subject to patient's goals.

Nausea / Vomiting:

- See [Nausea/Vomiting Protocol 2.12](#)

**P****PEARLS**

- Breakthrough pain assessment and management is important in patients with advanced disease as they may have a high burden of pain, be opiate tolerant, and already be receiving high doses of opioids.
- Anxiety ranges from mild to severe, is common in patients nearing death, and should be treated promptly.
- Terminal secretions are noisy, gurgling respirations caused by secretions accumulating in the lungs or oropharynx.
- Terminal dyspnea is exhibited by patients that are expected to die within hours to days. Individuals experiencing dyspnea often experience heightened anxiety.
- Constipation is a frequent cause of nausea and vomiting. Opioid-related constipation is dose-related, and patients do not develop tolerance to this side effect. Surgical treatment is often not appropriate.
- Nausea / Vomiting can be extremely debilitating symptoms at the end of life. Effective control of nausea can be achieved in most patients.
- Fever and infection treatment should be guided by an understanding of where the patient is in the dying trajectory and goals of care. Overwhelming sepsis may be a sign of death not to be reversed.
- Delirium is common at end of life and is often caused by a combination of medications, dehydration, infections or hypoxia. It is distressing to families. It often heralds the end of life and may require sedation.

# Implantable Ventricular Assist Devices (VAD)

8.10

Medical Policy 8.10

## 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 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 causes for VAD alarms are low batteries or battery failure
- 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		

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Protocol Continues

# Implantable Ventricular Assist Device (VAD)

8.10

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

### 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: <https://www.mylvad.com/medical-professionals/resource-library/ems-field-guides>.

Download onto your ambulance laptops the “MyLVAD Hospital Locator App.”



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### References:

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- 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.
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- 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.

Medical Policy 8.10

# 8.11 Naloxone Leave Behind Opioid Overdose Rescue Program

## NALOXONE LEAVE BEHIND OPIOID OVERDOSE RESCUE PROGRAM ALSO KNOWN AS NALOXONE LEAVE BEHIND KIT

### BACKGROUND

The opioid crisis is a growing concern in America, and it has become the leading cause of injury-related death in the United States. Naloxone is an opioid antidote that reverses the symptoms of opioid toxicity and associated life-threatening respiratory depression. Providing Naloxone Leave Behind Kits containing 4 mg. nasal spray naloxone doses to patients who have just had an overdose or who have other signs of opioid use disorder (OUD) has been shown to save lives and is a critical intervention EMS can deliver.

### PURPOSE

To provide individuals who have just experienced an opioid-related overdose or who have other indications of OUD (At-Risk Person) with a Naloxone Leave Behind Kit, along with instructions on harm reduction and how to access treatment, in order to potentially prevent a future opioid related death. Indicators of OUD may include patient confirmation of opioid use/OUD, concern expressed by family members or others on scene, presence of drug paraphernalia or clinical signs and symptoms.

### PROCEDURE

- Identify an At-Risk Person who has experienced an opioid related overdose or has indicators of OUD.
- Complete usual patient care as per Vermont Statewide EMS Protocols. (See [Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose – Adult 2.19A](#) or [– Pediatric 2.19P](#), [Altered Mental Status – Adult 2.3A](#) or [– Pediatric 2.3P](#).)
- Overdose patients who received naloxone by EMS or prior to EMS arrival should be encouraged to accept transport to the Emergency Department.
- Offer a Naloxone Leave Behind Kit to an At-Risk Person if they refuse transport.
- Additionally, offer a kit to an At-Risk Person that has not experienced an overdose but has indications of OUD.
- The Naloxone Leave Behind Kit may also be given to family members, friends or other persons on scene who are in a position to assist the At-Risk Person.
- Provide instructions on how to use the Naloxone Leave Behind Kit along with harm reduction instructions and information handout on how to access treatment for OUD.
- Patients who used Naloxone on scene prior to EMS arrival may be offered a replacement kit.

Follow standard protocol and contact **Medical Direction** for patients who wish to refuse transport. (See [Refusal of Care Policy and Patient Non-Transport Form 8.15](#).)

### DOCUMENTATION

- In SIREN under Provider Action – Treatment, document if a Naloxone Leave Behind Kit was given and number of kits distributed at the scene. If kit was offered but not left behind, briefly document why.
- Dispensing a Naloxone Leave Behind Kit is an approved activity under Vermont EMS Scope of Practice for all provider levels.

# Non-EMS Personnel at the Emergency Scene

8.12

Medical Policy 8.12

## 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.

# 8.13 Pediatric Transportation



## 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





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, after obtaining warrant from a Superior judge. ([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 §4810](#)).

**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 Procedure 6.7](#).

**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 6.10](#).

**PEPPER SPRAY**

Patients who have been subdued by pepper spray, see [Eye & Dental Injuries Protocol 4.3](#).

**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 [Restraints Procedure 6.9](#).



### 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 Patient Non-Transport Algorithm. Any check mark in a shaded area requires on-line **Medical Direction** prior to terminating the patient encounter.

Situation Involves															
Chest pain										Alert:	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Dyspnea										Oriented to:					
Alt Mental status										Person	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Intoxication										Place	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Head Injury										Time	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
										Situation	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Blood Glucose										Obtained?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	0	60	120	180	240	300	360	420	480						
O <sub>2</sub> Saturation										Obtained?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	92	94	96	98	100
Pulse										Obtained?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140	150			
Systolic BP										Obtained?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	50	70	90	110	130	150	170	190	210	230	250	270			
Diastolic BP										Obtained?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140			
Respirations										Obtained?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	30	32	34		




 Policy Continued

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.

**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. Follow the patient non-transport algorithm. Any check mark in a shaded area requires on-line **Medical Direction** prior to terminating the patient encounter.
6. 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).
7. 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.
8. If on-line **Medical Direction** was consulted for a refusal of care, obtain and document the physician's name in the patient care report.
9. All patients in police custody retain the right to request transport. This should be coordinated with law enforcement.
10. If child abuse is suspected and a refusal of care situation exists, the EMT must contact police immediately, see [Victims of Violence 8.21](#).



Vermont Department of Health  
**Emergency Medical Services**  
**Supplemental Report for Patient Non-Transport \***

108 Cherry St., PO Box 70, Burlington, VT 05402  
 802-863-7310 1-800-244-0911 (in VT)



Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ EMS Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ Incident # \_\_\_\_\_

Incident Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Patient Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Patient DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ If the patient is <18, is parent/guardian present? Yes  No

\* All patient refusals must be documented in SIREN or on a patient care report.

**Situation Involves**

- Chest pain
- Dyspnea
- Alt Mental status
- Intoxication
- Head Injury

Alert: Yes  No

**Oriented to:**

- Person Yes  No
- Place Yes  No
- Time Yes  No
- Situation Yes  No

Blood Glucose  0 60 120 180 240 300 360 420 480

Obtained? Yes  No

O<sub>2</sub> Saturation  0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 92 94 96 98 100

Obtained? Yes  No

Pulse  40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120 130 140 150

Obtained? Yes  No

Systolic BP  50 70 90 110 130 150 170 190 210 230 250 270

Obtained? Yes  No

Diastolic BP  30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120 130 140

Obtained? Yes  No

Respirations  8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 26 30 32 34

Obtained? Yes  No

**Reason for No Transport:**

- Patient refuses transport against EMS advice.
- Patient does not desire transport to hospital via EMS and EMS provider agrees that the patient's alternative treatment/transportation plan is acceptable.
- EMS provider does not feel transport by EMS is necessary/indicated and patient agrees.
- EMS provider does not feel transport by EMS is necessary/indicated and patient desires transport.

Patient understands clinical situation Yes  No

Patient verbalizes logical reasons for desiring no transport Yes  No

Risks explained to patient: \_\_\_\_\_

Patient verbalized understanding of risks Yes  No

Responsible adult family member or friend at the scene Yes  No

Patient refused the following treatments/procedures: \_\_\_\_\_

Patient's plan for seeking further medical evaluation: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that evaluation and/or treatment by Vermont-licensed Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel is not a substitute for care by my personal physician or hospital emergency department. Although I am not being transported to a hospital by EMS, my condition may still warrant care by a physician. I am responsible for seeking the care I feel is necessary, and I have a plan for doing so. I also release the EMS personnel and organizations involved with my current situation from all claims resulting from my voluntary refusal of treatment and/or transport. I understand that if I change my mind, I can call 9-1-1 at any time.

Patient or Parent/Guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ Witness \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Direction ID or name: \_\_\_\_\_

EMS Provider & Cert Number \_\_\_\_\_ Consulted by: None \_\_\_\_\_ Radio \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ On scene \_\_\_\_\_

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 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 the 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 Protocols. Treatments and assessments rendered using the Statewide 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.



# 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 8.8](#).
- **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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Medical Policy 8.17



Patients with ventricular assist devices (VAD) should almost never be pronounced dead at the scene, see [Implantable Ventricular Assist Devices \(VAD\) Policy 8.10](#).

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, contact **Medical Direction** to consider termination of resuscitation **OR** continued resuscitation and transport.
- If ROSC, continue resuscitation and transport **AND** contact **Medical Direction**.
- 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 Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC). (See [Hypothermia \(Environmental\) Protocol – Adult & Pediatric 2.11.](#))
- CPR-induced consciousness is also a contraindication of TOR.
- Cardiac arrests should generally be managed on scene until return of spontaneous circulation, decision to cease resuscitation, or criteria are 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.

- 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

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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.

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.

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## MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT (MCI)


- See [Mass/Multiple Casualty Triage Protocol 9.1](#).

## TRAUMATIC CARDIAC ARREST

- See [Traumatic Cardiac Arrest Protocol 4.9](#).

## 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 ETCO<sub>2</sub> 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.

# Safe Response and Transportation Guidelines

## RESPONSE & TRANSPORT PRIORITY DETERMINATION

- Determine response priority based on location of call and information provided per local SOP's.
- Consider traffic flow in the following response situations:
  - When access to the scene will be delayed, such as calls requiring EMS to stage for law enforcement but EMS is closer to the scene.
  - Hazardous road conditions limiting response speed and/or road conditions are likely to cause accidents for individuals pulling to side of road (e.g., severe icing of roadways or extreme limited visibility).
- Determine transport priority considering the road and traffic conditions as they may impact the potential time savings, the ability to perform effective patient care, and most importantly the driver's ability to safely transport with lights and sirens:
  - Consider flow of traffic transport for cases such as cardiac arrest due to the inability of providers to be properly restrained when performing CPR, unless traffic conditions would significantly prolong transport time.
  - Consider reserving use of lights and sirens in transport to known time-sensitive conditions such as MI, stroke or multi-trauma.

## SAFETY WHEN IN MOTION

While ambulance is in motion (at all times, not only while transporting patients):

- All objects weighing 3 lbs or greater should be secured within a cabinet, compartment or safely attached to a permanently-affixed structure within the passenger compartment or cab.
- Patients should be secured to the stretcher with **all** available belts -- i.e. chest/shoulder harness, lap and leg belts. **Do not** leave belts unused. This includes patients who are secured to backboards.
- Providers should be restrained at all possible times, unless it would interfere with patient care:
  - If belt prohibits patient care from being performed, it may be removed but then should be refastened as soon as possible.
  - If belt must be removed for care, consider timing procedures/treatments to times ambulance will experience minimal braking or turns. Select straight sections of road with few intersections to reduce risk of being thrown during sudden braking or turning.
- Family members/non-rescue personnel should be properly restrained at all times.

Strangulation is defined as asphyxiation caused by closure of blood vessels and or air passageways of the neck due to external pressure. External pressure can be manual via a body part such as hands, arms, knees, etc., or can be by an object such as a belt, rope, etc.

Patients are at risk of delayed death due to internal swelling, anoxia, hematoma or structural damage that cannot be identified externally. Patients should be encouraged to seek medical care; if transported, communicate reported strangulation attempt to hospital staff.

Although often described as 'choking' by patients, it should be distinguished as strangulation when being documented by providers (as opposed to choking, i.e., foreign body obstruction). Include all information and observations regarding attempted strangulation in documentation provided to receiving hospital.

### Assessment:

How was the patient strangled:

- Left, right, or both hands; forearm; knee or foot; ligature or smothered; other, describe

Was patient shaken, beaten or held against wall, ground:

- Quantify grip strength and level of pain using 1-10 scale; duration in min/sec.
- Prior incidents of strangulation, domestic violence, or threats?

Signs and symptoms:

- Petechiae on face, eyes/eyelids, nose, ears, head
- Deformity of or bleeding from nose, ears; bruising, swelling of mouth/lips
- Redness, scratches, abrasions, bruising under chin, on neck, shoulders, chest
- Ligature marks, swelling, fingernail impressions (offensive or defensive) on neck
- Missing hair, fracture, or swelling/bruising on head, signs of concussion
- Difficulty breathing or speaking; coughing, hoarse or raspy voice; drooling, difficulty or pain swallowing
- Vision disturbances or changes (spots, light flashes, tunnel vision, etc.)
- Hearing disturbances or changes (buzzing or ringing in the ears, etc.)
- Headache
- Subcutaneous emphysema
- Incontinence

Behavioral signs:

- Agitation, amnesia, hallucinations, dizziness, fainting, or combativeness due to hypoxia

### Documentation and Reporting Responsibilities

Per [13 VSA 1021](#) and [33 VSA 4912](#) it must be reported to the police unless the patient age 18 or older refuses to have the information released.

Strangulation is also an indicator of increasing lethality in a violent relationship. Every effort should be made to connect patient with support services.

- 24-Hour Domestic Violence Crisis Line: 1-800-228-7395
- 24-Hour Sexual Assault Crisis Line: 1-800-489-7273
- Vermont Adult Protective Services Program 800-564-1612 (after hours at 800-649-5285)
- Emergency shelter and transportation
- Hospital and court accompaniment; legal advocacy
- Information about public assistance.

### PEARLS:

- Patient's spouse/partner, caregiver or parent may be the perpetrator; their presence may hinder patient's disclosure of information.
- Providers' reactions can impact patient recovery and strengthen or hinder prosecution of the perpetrator. Non-judgmental and compassionate care and thorough documentation and preservation of evidence are essential.

# Trauma Triage and Transport Decision

## Measure Vital Signs and Level of Consciousness

Glasgow Coma Scale	≤ 13
MAP	< 65
Systolic Blood Pressure	< 90 mmHg
Respiratory Rate	< 10 or > 29 breaths per minute or need for ventilatory support (< 20 in infants aged < 1 year)

→ YES →

↓ NO ↓

## 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

→ YES →

↓ NO ↓

## 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 site; > 18 inches any site
  - 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

→ YES →

↓ NO ↓

## 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


→ YES →

↓ NO ↓

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.

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT**

### **DEFINITION**

Any sexual contact or behavior that occurs without consent. This can include rape, unwanted sexual touching, and forced or coerced performance of a sex act.

### **Vermont Statute:**

#### **Sexual Assault**

#### **Definition- any type of non-consensual sexual activity**

#### **Vermont Statute § 3252. Sexual assault**

- (a) No person shall engage in a sexual act with another person and compel the other person to participate in a sexual act:
  - (1) without the consent of the other person; or
  - (2) by threatening or coercing the other person; or
  - (3) by placing the other person in fear that any person will suffer imminent bodily injury.
- (b) No person shall engage in a sexual act with another person and impair substantially the ability of the other person to appraise or control conduct by administering or employing drugs or intoxicants without the knowledge or against the will of the other person.

### **PROCEDURE FOR ASSESSMENT**

- Stabilize life threatening injuries.
- If necessary, to remove patient's clothing, cut along seam lines to preserve evidence.
- General medical care is a priority.
- Do not examine the genitals or rectum unless necessary to stabilize the patient.
- Dress wounds, but do not attempt to clean.
- Discourage showering, changing clothes, brushing teeth, eating, drinking, or using the bathroom to preserve evidence.
- Assess and document injuries.
- Obtain a brief history of the assault and the timeframe.
- Do not attempt to get a detailed description of event.
- Document patient appearance- torn, bloody, missing clothing.
- Whenever possible, secure clothing in a paper bag and bring to the ED.

### **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- Provide calm, compassionate, non-judgmental support.
- Use active listening and non-blaming language.
- Explain all your actions to the patient and obtain consent for all treatment.
- Always wear gloves to preserve evidence.
- Consider drug facilitated sexual assault if patient has gaps in memory.
- Consider human trafficking if the patient is altered, unaware of their location (see human trafficking guidelines).
- Communicate with the receiving hospital early so that a forensic nurse and advocate can be contacted.
- Document verbatim any patient statement regarding the assault.

Policy Continues 




 Policy Continued

- Patients who have experienced sexual assault have the following options for care:
  - To seek medical treatment at a hospital emergency department.
  - To report or NOT report to law enforcement.
  - Have forensic evidence collected WITH or WITHOUT a report to law enforcement.
  - Care will be provided with no expense to the patient.
- Reporting
  - If the patient is a minor, follow mandatory reporting laws to DCF.
  - If the patient is a vulnerable adult follow mandatory reporting laws to Adult Protective Services.
  - If the patient is an adult, you should engage law enforcement ONLY after obtaining their consent.
  - 24 hour Sexual Assault Crisis Line: 1-800-277-5570.
  - Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence 24hr Sexual Violence Hotline: 1-800-489-7273.

### **HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

#### **DEFINITION**

Human trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery. Sex trafficking is a commercial sex act induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age.

#### **PROCEDURE FOR ASSESSMENT**

- Stabilize life-threatening injuries.
- Make general medical care a priority.
- Assess and document injuries.
- Obtain a brief history.
- Document patient appearance- torn, bloody, missing clothing.
- Possible health care indicators for Human Trafficking:
  - Delayed presentation for medical care.
  - Sexual assault, strangulation, defensive injuries.
  - Discrepancy between stated history and clinical presentation or observed injuries.
  - Lack of identification, insurance, or unaware of current location.
  - Overdose.

#### **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- The goal for any provider during interactions should NOT be disclosure.
- Provide calm, compassionate, non-judgmental care.
- Use active listening and non-blaming language.
- Keep the interaction positive to encourage a relationship of trust.
- Encourage the patient to call 211 if there is a safety concern.
- Possible behavior indicators
  - Scripted, memorized, mechanically recited or restricted history.
  - Stated age older than visual appearance.


 Policy Continues

Policy Continued

- Reluctant to speak in the presence of a companion.
- Overly attentive, hypervigilant companion that is reluctant to leave patient.
- Compulsive checking of cellphone, pager.
- Subordinate, hypervigilant or fearful behavior.
- If you suspect human trafficking, use your professional judgement to manage and mitigate risk to the patient.
- Use a certified interpreter for non-English speakers.
- Support the patient in choices made to the extent possible.
- Reporting
  - If the patient is a minor, follow mandatory reporting laws to DCF.
  - If the patient is a vulnerable adult follow mandatory reporting laws to Adult Protective Services.
  - If the patient is an adult, you should engage law enforcement ONLY after obtaining their consent.

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

### **DEFINITION**

The willful intimidation, physical assault, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior perpetrated by one intimate partner against another. Domestic violence affects individuals in every community, regardless of age, gender, economic status, race, religion, sexual orientation, or educational background.

### **PROCEDURE FOR ASSESSMENT**

- Maintain heightened awareness – family members, caregivers or bystanders may exhibit anger, be the perpetrator, or choose to use violence.
- Stabilize life threatening injuries.
- Further assess for safety – if possible, assess the patient privately (e.g., move the patient to ambulance to assess and treat, even if non-transport).
- Discreetly inquire about immediate safety concerns as well as past or present physical or emotional abuse.
  - If patient presents with injuries consistent with assault but becomes agitated or denies abuse, an abbreviated assessment may be warranted. Focus on the treatment of injuries according to appropriate protocol.
  - If patient discloses abuse and/or an immediate safety concern, present options for reporting to police, for transportation to the hospital for additional care, and for referrals to community support programs.
- Assess and document injuries consistent with the signs and symptoms of domestic violence. These include but are not limited to: bruises, erythema due to slaps, grab-marks, burns, lacerations and fractures.
  - Special attention should be paid to indications of strangulation (see [Strangulation Protocol 8.19](#)), injuries hidden by clothing or hair, injuries during pregnancy, and injury to or intimidation of children.

Policy Continues


 Policy Continued
**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- Provide compassionate, non-judgmental care always.
  - Psychological/behavioral characteristics of victims of domestic violence include but are not limited to: excessive crying, fragmented memories, passivity or aggression, fearful behavior, fear for the safety of children, hypervigilance and substance abuse.
- Offer the patient choices when possible to allow the patient to regain a sense of control.
- Assess all children carefully for physical injury whenever another household member is injured/abused in a domestic violence incident and/or if the scene suggests a mechanism for injury.
  - If physically uninjured, children should be sheltered from further harm on scene (e.g., witnessing patient care or police interaction with suspected abuser, or view of crime scene). EMS may assist law enforcement with caring for the uninjured child while appropriate arrangements are made by law enforcement.
- Consider a referral to the local domestic violence program.
- Reporting and Referrals
  - If the patient is a minor, follow mandatory reporting laws to DCF (1-800-649-5285).
  - If the patient is a vulnerable adult follow mandatory reporting laws to Adult Protective Services (1-800-564-1612).
  - If the patient is an adult, reports to law enforcement should ONLY be made with the patient's consent.
  - Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence 24hr Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-228-7395.

**CHILD MALTREATMENT****DEFINITION**

Child maltreatment includes child abuse, neglect, abandonment, and endangerment. It can include physical, emotional, psychological and sexual abuse, secondary exposure to domestic violence and torture. Child maltreatment occurs across all age groups, sexes, cultures and socioeconomic groups. Missed diagnosis can lead to repeat abuse and/or escalation of injuries. Approximately one third of victims are younger than 3 months. Children younger than three years of age are at highest risk for fatality.

- Child: an individual under the age of 18.
- Person responsible for a child's welfare: includes the child's parents, guardian, foster parent; any other adult who resides in a 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.

**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.


 Policy Continues

Policy Continued

## PROCEDURE FOR ASSESSMENT

- Stabilize life-threatening injuries.
- Treat and document assessment findings using appropriate medical treatment protocols-general medical care is a priority.
- Assess and document injuries and the patient's physical appearance.
- Obtain a brief history of the presenting concern with a timeframe. Document using the caregiver's and/or child's own words.
- Assess for physical signs and symptoms of child maltreatment which include, but are not limited to:
  - ANY injury or bruising on a non-ambulatory child.
  - Bruises on the torso, ears, neck, face, and upper arms of any child.
  - Injuries that have a patterned appearance reflective of an object used to cause the injury (e.g., bite mark or belt buckle).
  - Genital or anal trauma.
  - Burns with demarcated immersion lines, those which involve the genitals, or have evidence of patterns.
  - Patient confined to restricted space or position.
  - Pregnancy or presence of sexually-transmitted disease in a child.
  - Without a clear history of events, consider inflicted internal organ injury with the following: signs of head or abdominal trauma, unexplained shock, cardiac arrest, or unconsciousness.
- Assess for historical findings of child maltreatment which include, but are not limited to:
  - History that is inconsistent with physical findings or developmental level.
  - Conflicting reports regarding injury from the patient, caregivers or bystanders.
  - Lack of plausible explanation for serious injury.
  - Delay or failure to seek medical care.
  - A child's direct disclosure.
  - Injuries or ingestions resulting from inadequate protection from environmental hazards (e.g., guns, unrestrained in car, inadequate clothing).
  - Repeat calls to EMS or visits to the Emergency Department.
- Assess for findings of child endangerment (a lack or disregard of the child's safety that may result in injury):
  - Caregiver with sole responsibility for child supervision is impaired.
  - Hazardous or caustic substances are not properly stored.
  - Living conditions that are unsuitable for human habitation.

## SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

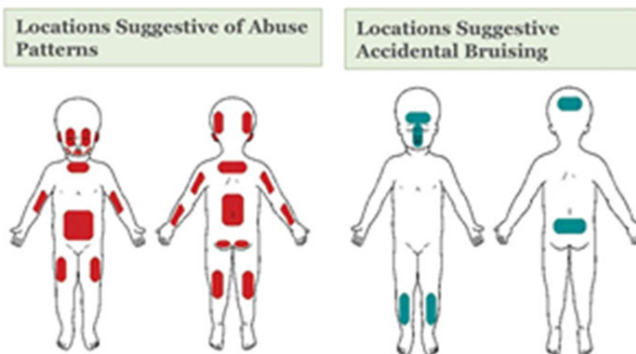
- Interactions with the child-victim are a powerful step in the healing process. Provide calm, compassionate, non-judgmental care in a reassuring manner.
- Inappropriate or extreme caregiver and child behaviors are challenging to interpret but may be indicative of child maltreatment.
- All incidences of sexual violence in minor children are reported to child protection agencies. Follow Sexual Assault section of this protocol for patient care required.

Policy Continues

Policy Continued

- Written documentation is vital to comprehensive, accurate investigations.
- **Mandated Reporting Responsibilities:** According to Vermont law, any and all cases of suspected child maltreatment must be reported immediately and/or within 24 hours. This applies even in cases when the patient is not transported. It is not necessary to witness or have actual evidence of an event of child maltreatment. Suspicions should be reported following mandatory reporting laws.
  - Notify the VT Department for Children and Families: 1-800-649-5285. Available 24 hours/ day, 7 days/week.
  - If a caregiver refuses treatment of a minor child whom you feel needs medical attention, contact law enforcement immediately.
  - Informing hospital personnel or involving law enforcement does not fulfill legal reporting responsibilities.
  - Responsibility for reporting child abuse and protection from liability for such good faith reporting is established by [33 V.S.A. § 4913 \(Mandated Reporter\)](#).

### Physical Abuse Bruising



### VULNERABLE/ELDER ADULT MALTREATMENT

#### DEFINITION

As defined by VT law ([33 V.S.A. § 6902](#)), a vulnerable adult is defined as any person 18 years of age or older who:

- Is the resident of a licensed facility, psychiatric hospital or unit of a hospital
- Has been receiving personal care services for more than one month from a home health agency certified by the Vermont Department of Health or from a person or organization that offers, provides, or arranges for personal care. Is impaired due to brain damage, infirmities of aging, mental condition, or physical, psychiatric, or developmental disability that results in some impairment of the individual's ability to provide for his or her own care without assistance, including the provision of food, shelter, clothing, health care, supervision, or management of finances; or because of the disability or infirmity, the individual has an impaired ability to protect himself or herself from abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

Policy Continues

Policy Continued

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 their life, health, or welfare in jeopardy, and which results in impairment of health;
- Any conduct committed with intent to cause 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, as 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 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 the vulnerable adult, including food, clothing, medicine, shelter, supervision, and medical services;
- Not protecting a vulnerable adult from abuse, neglect, or exploitation by others;
- Failure to carry out a plan of care for a vulnerable adult when such failure results in physical or psychological harm or substantial risk of death to the vulnerable adult;
- Not reporting significant changes in 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.

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 their will to perform services for the profit or advantage of another;
- Any sexual activity of a vulnerable adult when the person does not consent or is incapable of resisting due to age, disability, or the fear of retribution or hardship.

## PROCEDURE FOR ASSESSMENT

- Stabilize life-threatening injuries.
- Treat and document assessment findings using appropriate medical treatment protocols-general medical care is a priority.
- Assess and document injuries and the patient’s physical appearance.

Policy Continues




 Policy Continued

- Obtain a brief history of the presenting concern with a timeframe. Document using the patient's own words verbatim.
- Assess privately in a safe place, if feasible.
- Incorporate strategies to reduce communication barriers (speak clearly, slowly, use short instructions).
- Note psychological /behavioral characteristics of maltreatment including (but not limited to): excessive crying, passivity or aggression, depression; compliant or fearful behavior for safety of self, children, and/or pets: panic attacks, anxiety, depression and/or suicidal ideation, and substance abuse.
- Assess for physical signs of maltreatment, including but not limited to:
  - Sexual assault, strangulation, defensive injuries (See [Strangulation Protocol 8.19](#)).
  - Unexplained or poorly explained bruising, lacerations, or fractures.
  - Multiple injuries in various stages of healing.
  - Alterations in skin integrity, including decubitus ulcers.
  - Hazardous living conditions.
  - Inappropriate clothing for weather.
  - Inadequate hygiene.
  - Physical signs of malnutrition or dehydration.
  - Physical signs of under/over medication.
  - Pregnancy or presence of sexually transmitted disease.
- Assess for historical signs of maltreatment, including but not limited to:
  - Delayed presentation for medical care.
  - Discrepancy between stated history and clinical presentation or observed injuries.
  - Absence of caregiver(s).
  - Failure to respond to warning signs of obvious disease.
  - A disclosure of maltreatment by the patient.
  - Patient confined to restricted space or position.
  - Repetitive EMS calls due to probable failure of health care surveillance.

### SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Interactions with elder or vulnerable adult patients are a powerful step in the healing process. Provide calm, compassionate, non-judgmental care in a reassuring manner.
- Written documentation is vital to comprehensive, accurate investigations.
- **Mandated Reporting Responsibilities:** According to Vermont law, any and all cases of suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation of an elder or vulnerable adult must be reported immediately and/or within 48 hours.
  - Notify the Vermont Adult Protective Services Program at 800-564-1612 between the work hours of 8:00am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.
  - After business hours, on weekends or holidays, call the Emergency Services Program (ESP) at 800-649-5285.
  - If a caregiver refuses treatment of an elder/vulnerable adult whom you feel needs medical attention, contact law enforcement immediately.
  - Informing hospital personnel or involving law enforcement does not fulfill legal reporting responsibilities.
  - Responsibility for reporting elder/ vulnerable adult maltreatment and protection from liability for such good faith reporting is established by [33 V.S.A. § 6902 \(Mandated Reporter\)](#).

## 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

# Hazardous Materials Exposure 9.0

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 8.4](#) or [Communications Failure Policy 8.5](#).

## 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** Serious injuries, immediately life-threatening problems, high potential for survival (e.g., 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 (e.g., 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 (e.g., 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 (e.g., 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.

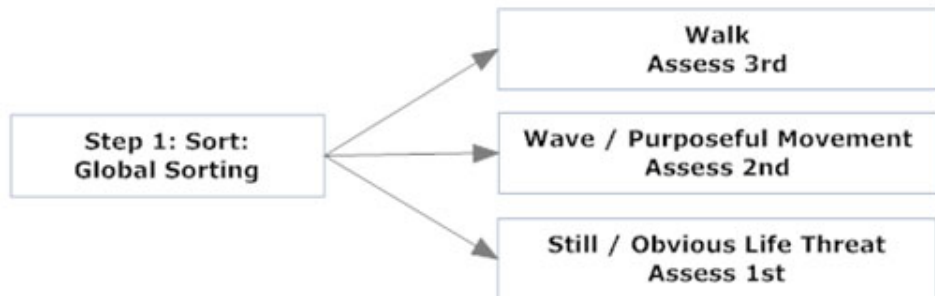
Protocol Continues



# 9.1 MASS/MULTIPLE CASUALTY TRIAGE

Protocol Continues

## SALT Mass Casualty Triage



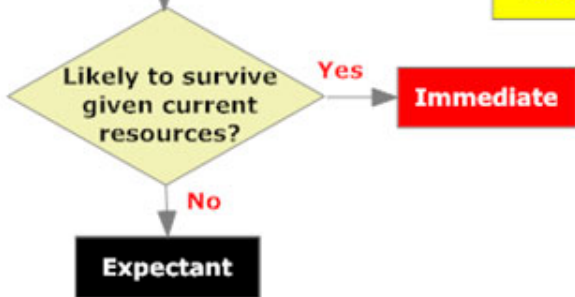
Step 2 - Assess: Individual Assessment

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 2.12](#).
- Consider pain management. See [Pain Management Protocol – Adult 2.18A](#) or [Pain Management Protocol – Pediatric 2.18P](#).

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 2020 Vermont Statewide Protocols.

See the Pediatric Color Coded Appendix for pediatric dosages

Medication	Adult Protocol/Dosing
<p><b><u>Acetaminophen</u></b> <b>(Tylenol)</b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indicated for fever control.</li> <li>Avoid in patients with severe liver disease.</li> <li>Impairment or sensitivity to acetaminophen.</li> <li>Do not use with other drug products containing acetaminophen or if patient has taken any drug containing acetaminophen within 4 hours.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pain Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>325 – 1000 PO, no repeat.</li> <li>1000 mg IV</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Activated Charcoal</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Indications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poisoning/Overdose.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25 – 50 grams PO if advised by <b>Medical Direction</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Adenosine</u></b> <b>(Adenocard)</b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specifically for treatment or diagnosis of Supraventricular Tachycardia.</li> <li>Consider for regular or wide complex tachycardia.</li> <li>Contraindicated in patients with WPW (Wolff-Parkinson-White) Syndrome.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Tachycardia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 mg rapid IV/IO push, followed by rapid flush. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May repeat 12 mg if no conversion.</li> <li>May repeat successful dose if dysrhythmia recurs after conversion.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# Vermont Adult Medication Reference

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Medication	Adult Protocol/Dosing
<p><b><u>Albuterol</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nebulized treatment for use in respiratory distress with bronchospasm.</li> <li>• Hyperkalemia.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.5 mg via nebulizer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May repeat every 5 minutes for continued symptoms.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 0.5 mg ipratropium and 2.5 mg albuterol (DuoNeb) via nebulizer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May repeat every 5 minutes (maximum 3 doses).</li> <li>▪ Contact <b>Medical Direction</b> for additional dosing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Asthma/COPD/RAD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.5 mg albuterol and 0.5 mg ipratropium bromide (DuoNeb) via nebulizer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May repeat every 5 minutes for continued symptoms (maximum 3 doses).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 2.5 mg albuterol via nebulizer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May repeat every 5 minutes for continued symptoms.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Albuterol metered-dose inhaler (MDI) 2 – 4 puffs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May repeat every 5 minutes – <i>extended care protocol</i>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Crush/Suspension</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Albuterol continuous 10 – 20 mg nebulized if ECG suggestive of hyperkalemia before or after extrication.</li> </ul> <p><b>Smoke Inhalation/Carbon Monoxide Poisoning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.5 mg albuterol via nebulizer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May repeat every 5 minutes for continued symptoms.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Amiodarone</u></b> <b>(Cordarone)</b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antiarrhythmic used mainly in wide complex tachycardia and ventricular fibrillation.</li> <li>• Avoid in patients with heart block or profound bradycardia.</li> <li>• Contraindicated in patients with iodine hypersensitivity.</li> <li>• Contraindicated in patients with WPW (Wolff-Parkinson-White) Syndrome.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cardiac Arrest</b> <b>V-Fib/Pulseless V-Tach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 300 mg IV/IO (preferred first-line agent) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Repeat 150 mg dose as needed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Post Resuscitative Care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infusion 1 mg/min IV/IO (if patient is having frequent PVCs or runs of VT, or if transport time exceeds 30 minutes).</li> </ul> <p><b>Tachycardia</b> <b>Wide complex tachycardia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 150 mg IV/IO mixed with 50 – 100 mL D5W or 0.9% NaCl over 10 min. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May repeat once in 10 minutes.</li> <li>▪ If successful, consider maintenance infusion of 1 mg/min IV/IO.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# Vermont Adult Medication Reference

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See the Pediatric Color Coded Appendix for pediatric dosages

<p><b><u>Aspirin</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An antiplatelet drug for use in cardiac chest pain.</li> <li>• Contraindicated if history of anaphylaxis to aspirin or NSAIDs</li> <li>• Contraindicated if active GI bleeding</li> </ul>	<p><b>Acute Coronary Syndrome</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 324 mg PO.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If patient has taken a partial dose (81 mg), administer remaining 243 mg.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Atropine</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anticholinergic drug used in bradycardias and organophosphate poisonings.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Bradycardia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0.5 mg IV/IO every 3 – 5 minutes up to total of 3 mg.</li> </ul> <p><b>Nerve Agent/Organophosphate Poisoning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 mg IV/IO; repeat every 5 minutes until excess secretions cease (stop).</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Atropine and Pralidoxime Auto-Injector (DuoDote or MARK I) Nerve Agent Kit</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antidote for Nerve Agents or Organophosphate Overdose.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Nerve Agent/Organophosphate Poisoning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer to <a href="#">Nerve Agents Organophosphate Poisoning Protocol – Adult 2.13A</a> for symptom assessment and dosing guidelines.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Calcium Chloride 10% solution</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indicated for calcium channel blocker overdose, hyperkalemia, or beta blocker overdose.</li> <li>• Do not routinely use in cardiac arrest.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Bradycardia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 500 – 1,000 mg (5 – 10 mL of a 10% solution) IV/IO over 10 minutes.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Avoid use if pt is taking digoxin.</li> <li>▪ Do not exceed 1 mL per minute. Flush with 0.9% NaCl before and after administration.</li> <li>▪ Do not mix with or infuse immediately before or after sodium bicarbonate.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Cardiac Arrest</b> <b>Wide Complex PEA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 gram of 10% solution IV <b>OR</b> Calcium Gluconate 2 grams IV <b>AND</b> Sodium Bicarbonate 1 – 2 mEq/kg IV.</li> </ul> <p><b>Crush/Suspension Injury</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 gram of 10% solution IV/IO over 5 minutes.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May repeat in 10 minutes.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# Vermont Adult Medication Reference

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See the Pediatric Color Coded Appendix for pediatric dosages

<p><b><u>Calcium Gluconate</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indicated for calcium channel blocker overdose, hyperkalemia/renal failure, or beta blocker overdose.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Bradycardia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 grams IV/IO over 5 minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May repeat in 10 minutes.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Cardiac Arrest</b> <b>Wide Complex PEA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 grams IV <b>OR</b> Calcium Chloride 1 gram of 10% solution IV <b>AND</b> Sodium Bicarbonate 1 – 2 mEq/kg IV.</li> </ul> <p><b>Crush/Suspension Injury</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 gram of a 10% solution IV/IO over 5 minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May repeat in 10 minutes.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Dexamethasone</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steroid used to control inflammatory conditions, asthma, croup, allergic reactions or adrenal insufficiency</li> </ul>	<p><b>Adrenal Insufficiency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 mg IV/IO/IM.</li> </ul> <p><b>Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0.6 mg/kg IV/IO/IM/PO, maximum dose 10 mg – <i>extended care protocol.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Asthma/COPD/RAD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 mg IV/IO/IM/PO.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Dextrose 5%, 10%, 50%</u></b> <b><u>Glucose solutions</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Symptomatic hypoglycemia.</li> <li>Use in medication infusion medium.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Diabetic Emergencies (Hypoglycemia)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dextrose 10% (preferred) or 50% IV up to 25 grams. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recheck blood glucose after 5 minutes.</li> <li>Repeat up to 25 grams dextrose 10% or 50% if glucose levels &lt; 60 mg/dl with continued altered mental status.</li> <li>25 grams = 250 mL of 10% solution.</li> <li>1 amp (25 grams) = 50 mL of 50% solution.</li> <li>D5W medication infusion medium.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Diazepam (Valium)</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seizure control.</li> <li>Sedation.</li> <li>Anxiolytic.</li> </ul> <p><b>(continued)</b></p>	<p><b>Bradycardia</b> <b>Procedural Sedation for Cardiac Pacing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 mg IV/IO, may repeat 2.5 mg once in 5 minutes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP)</b> <b>Anxiolytic.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Contact Medical Direction for authorization.</b></li> <li>5 mg IV (may repeat once in 5 minutes).</li> </ul> <p><b>Hyperthermia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 mg IV, may repeat once in 5 minutes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Nerve Agent/Organophosphate Poisoning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 mg IV every 5 minutes <b>OR</b></li> <li>10 mg IM <b>OR</b></li> <li>Diazepam auto-injector (10mg).</li> <li>Repeat every 10 minutes as needed</li> </ul> <p><b>Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 mg IV, may repeat once in 5 minutes</li> </ul>



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See the Pediatric Color Coded Appendix for pediatric dosages

<p><b><u>Diazepam</u></b> (continued) <b>(Valium)</b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seizure control.</li> <li>• Sedation.</li> <li>• Anxiolytic.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Restraints</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact <b>Medical Direction</b> for 2.5 mg IV, may repeat once in 5 minutes             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May combine and administer Benzodiazepine and Haloperidol in one syringe.</li> <li>▪ Contact Medical Direction if additional dosing is needed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Seizure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May assist with patient's own diazepam gel as prescribed.</li> <li>• 5 – 10 mg IV, then 2.5 mg every 5 minutes (maximum dose 20 mg)</li> </ul> <p><b>Tachycardia</b> <b>For Cardioversion Sedation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 mg IV/IO, may repeat 2.5 mg once in 5 minutes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Traumatic Brain Injury</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 mg IV/IO, may repeat once in 5 minutes.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Diltiazem</u></b> <b>(Cardizem)</b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calcium channel blocker used to treat narrow complex SVT.</li> <li>• Contraindicated in patients with heart block, ventricular tachycardia, WPW, and/or acute MI.</li> <li>• Contraindicated in patients with WPW (Wolff-Parkinson-White) Syndrome.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Tachycardia</b> <b>Narrow Complex Tachycardia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0.25 mg/kg IV/IO (maximum dose 20 mg) over 2 minutes.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consider 10 mg maximum dose for elderly patient or patient with low BP.</li> <li>▪ May repeat dose in 15 minutes at 0.35 mg/kg (maximum dose 25 mg) if necessary.</li> <li>▪ Consider maintenance infusion 5 – 15 mg/hour IV/IO.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Diphenhydramine</u></b> <b>(Benadryl)</b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antihistamine used as an adjunctive treatment in allergic reactions.</li> <li>• Antidote for dystonic reaction.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25 – 50 mg IM/IV/IO to treat pruritus.</li> <li>• 25 – 50 mg by mouth – <i>extended care protocol</i>.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May repeat every 4 – 6 hours as needed; maximum dose of 300 mg/24 hours.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Restraints</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For acute dystonic reaction to haloperidol 25 – 50 mg IV <b>OR</b> 50 mg IM.</li> </ul> <p><b>Nausea/Vomiting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25 – 50 mg IV/IM for dystonic reaction.</li> <li>• 25 mg PO/chewed – <i>extended care for motion sickness</i>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25 – 50 mg IV/IM.</li> </ul>

# Vermont Adult Medication Reference

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See the Pediatric Color Coded Appendix for pediatric dosages

## **Epinephrine 1:1,000** **(1 mg/mL)**

### **Indications/Contraindications:**

- Bronchodilation in Asthma and COPD exacerbation. Primary treatment for anaphylaxis.
- Vasopressor used for bradycardia, post-resuscitative care, shock, anaphylaxis.

### **MIXING INSTRUCTIONS FOR EPINEPHRINE INFUSIONS**

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

### **Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis**

- 0.3 mg IM by autoinjector **OR** 0.3 mg (0.3 mL) IM.
  - For additional dosing, contact **Medical Direction** (EMT).
- 0.3 mg (0.3 mL) IM.
  - 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.)

### **Asthma/COPD/RAD**

- Consider 0.3 mg IM by autoinjector (preferred) **OR** epinephrine (**1:1,000**) (1 mg/mL) 0.3 mg (0.3 mL) IM.
  - For additional dosing, contact **Medical Direction**.

### **Bradycardia**

- 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. Prepare 10 mcg/mL by adding 1 mL 0.1 mg/mL epinephrine to 9 mL NS or 0.9% NaCl. Then administer 10 – 20 mcg (1 – 2 mL) boluses IV/IO every 2 minutes. Switch to infusion as soon as practical.

### **Post-Resuscitative Care**

- 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. Prepare 10 mcg/mL by adding 1 mL 0.1 mg/mL epinephrine to 9 mL NS or 0.9% NaCl. Then administer 10 – 20 mcg (1 – 2 mL) boluses IV/IO every 2 minutes. Switch to infusion as soon as practical

### **Septic Shock**

- Infusion 2 – 10 mcg/min IV/IO titrated to MAP ≥ 65 (systolic ≥ 90). (Infusion pump required.)
- Push dose (10 mcg/mL) for short transport times or as bridge to infusion. Prepare 10 mcg/mL by adding 1 mL 0.1 mg/mL epinephrine to 9 mL NS or 0.9% NaCl. Then administer 10 – 20 mcg (1 – 2 mL) boluses IV/IO every 2 minutes. Switch to infusion as soon as practical.

### **Shock (Cardiogenic or Distributive)**

- 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 10 – 20 mcg (1 – 2 mL) boluses IV/IO every 2 minutes.

### **Smoke Inhalation**

- 3 mg (mL) in 3 mL 0.9% NaCl via nebulizer for symptomatic patients.

## **Epinephrine 1:10,000** **(0.1 mg/mL)**

### **Indications/Contraindications:**

- Vasopressor used in cardiac arrest.
- Not recommended in traumatic cardiac arrest.

### **Cardiac Arrest**

- 1 mg IV/IO.
  - Repeat every other cycle
  - Maximum dose 3 mg..

### **Hypothermia**

- 1 mg IV/IO up to 3 doses, and defibrillation as indicated.

# Vermont Adult Medication Reference

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See the Pediatric Color Coded Appendix for pediatric dosages

<p><b><u>Etomidate</u></b> <b>(Amidate)</b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sedative used in Rapid Sequence Intubation.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Rapid Sequence Intubation</b> <b>{Sedate then} Paralyze</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0.3 mg/kg IV/IO (maximum 40 mg).</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Fentanyl</u></b> <b>(Sublimaze)</b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Narcotic analgesic</li> <li>Avoid use if BP &lt; 100 mmHg.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Acute Coronary Syndrome</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25 – 50 mcg slow IV push.</li> <li>Repeat every 5 minutes up to 300 mcg and systolic BP remains ≥100 mmHg.</li> </ul> <p><b>Bradycardia</b></p> <p><b>Analgesia for Cardiac Pacing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25 – 50 mcg slow IV push.</li> <li>May repeat every 5 minutes to a total of 300 mcg and systolic BP remains ≥100 mmHg.</li> </ul> <p><b>Pain Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25 – 100 mcg slow IV, every 2 – 5 minutes to a total of 300 mcg titrated to pain relief <b>OR</b> 50 – 100 mcg IM/IN, every 5 minutes to a total of 300 mcg titrated to pain relief <b>OR</b> Morphine 2 – 5 mg IV/IM every 10 minutes to a total of 20 mg titrated to pain.</li> <li><b>AND/OR</b> Ketamine 0.25 mg/kg IV infusion (in 50 – 100 mL bag 0.9% NaCl <b>over 10 minutes</b>). May be administered via bolus. (Consider lower 0.15 mg/kg dose for frail or elderly patients.) <b>OR</b> Ketamine 0.5 mg/kg IM/IN             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May repeat ketamine dose every 15 – 20 minutes for a total of 1 mg/kg.</li> <li>Contact <b>Medical Direction</b> for additional dosing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Rapid Sequence Intubation</b> <b>Post-Intubation Care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fentanyl 50 – 100 mcg slow IV/IO push, may repeat every 15 minutes as needed for anesthesia (maximum 300 mcg).</li> <li><b>AND</b> Midazolam 2.5 – 5 mg IV/IO, every 5 – 10 minutes (maximum 20 mg) <b>OR</b> Lorazepam 1 – 2 mg IV/IO every 15 minutes (maximum 10 mg).</li> <li>Contact <b>Medical Direction</b> for additional dosing.</li> <li>Be sure to maintain adequate sedation if patient is paralyzed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Nasotracheal and Orotracheal Intubation</b> <b>Post Intubation Care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fentanyl 50 – 100 mcg IV/IO, may repeat every 15 minutes as needed for anesthesia (maximum 300 mcg).</li> <li><b>AND</b> Midazolam 2.5 – 5 mg IV/IO, every 5 – 10 minutes (maximum 20 mg) <b>OR</b> Lorazepam 1 – 2 mg IV/IO every 15 minutes (maximum 10 mg).</li> <li>Contact <b>Medical Direction</b> for additional dosing.</li> </ul> <p><b>Supraglottic Airway</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50 – 100 mcg slow IV/IO push every 15 minutes, as needed (maximum 300 mcg) <b>AND</b></li> <li>Midazolam 2.5 – 5 mg IV/IO every 5 – 10 minutes, as needed (maximum 20 mg) <b>OR</b></li> <li>Lorazepam 1 – 2 mg IV/IO every 15 minutes as needed (max 10 mg).</li> </ul>

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<p><b><u>Glucagon</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Converts glycogen to glucose in the liver to increase blood sugar</li> <li>• Use in patients with no IV access</li> <li>• Indicated for beta blocker or calcium channel blocker overdose</li> </ul>	<p><b>Bradycardia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 – 5 mg IV/IO over 3 – 5 minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May repeat up to 10 mg.</li> <li>▪ If effective, place on infusion 1 – 5 mg/hr IV/IO via pump.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Diabetic Emergencies (Hypoglycemia)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 mg IM. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recheck glucose 15 minutes after administration of glucagon.</li> <li>▪ May repeat glucagon 1 mg IM if glucose level is &lt;60 mg/dl with continued altered mental status.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Glucose Oral</u></b> <b><u>Glucose Solutions</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use in conscious hypoglycemic states.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Diabetic Emergencies (Hypoglycemia)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Haloperidol</u></b> <b>(Haldol)</b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medication to assist with sedation of agitated patients.</li> <li>• Chemical restraint.</li> <li>• Caution: May lower seizure threshold.</li> <li>• Use lower doses in elderly/frail.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Restraints</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact <b>Medical Direction</b> for 5 mg IM, may repeat once in 5 minutes, maximum total dose 10 mg. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May be combined with midazolam, lorazepam or diazepam.</li> <li>▪ May combine and administer benzodiazepine and haloperidol in one syringe.</li> <li>▪ Contact <b>Medical Direction</b> if additional dosing is needed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Heparin</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• STEMI and no affirmative finding from fibrinolytic questionnaire.</li> <li>• Contraindication - history of Heparin Induced Thrombocytopenia</li> </ul>	<p><b>Paramedic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance of already established heparin drip.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Hydrocortisone</u></b> <b>(Solu-Cortef)</b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steroid used for adrenal insufficiency and associated distributive shock.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Adrenal Insufficiency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100 mg IV/IO/IM (preferred steroid for use in adrenal insufficiency). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May be repeated every 6 hours – <i>extended care protocol</i>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Shock</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100 mg IV/IO/IM.</li> </ul>

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<p><b><u>Hydroxocobalamin</u></b> <b>(Cyanokit)</b></p>	<p><b>Smoke Inhalation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hydroxocobalamin via use of Cyanokit:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Rock vial for at least 60 seconds (do not shake).</li> <li>Using vented intravenous tubing, administer IV over 15 minutes.</li> <li>Depending on clinical response, a second dose may be required.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Ipratropium Bromide</u></b> <b>(Atrovent)</b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anticholinergic bronchodilator. Blocks the muscarinic receptors of acetylcholine.</li> <li>Relief of bronchospasm in patients with reversible obstructive airway disease and bronchospasm.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0.5 mg ipratropium and 2.5 mg albuterol (DuoNeb) via nebulizer.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May repeat every 5 minutes (maximum 3 doses).</li> <li>Contact <b>Medical Direction</b> for additional dosing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Asthma/COPD/RAD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0.5 mg ipratropium and 2.5 mg albuterol (DuoNeb) via nebulizer.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May repeat every 5 minutes for continued symptoms (maximum 3 doses).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Ketamine</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sedative used in Rapid Sequence Intubation.</li> <li>Pain control.</li> <li>Chemical restraint</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Avoid in patients with known schizophrenia.</li> </ul> <p><b>(continued)</b></p>	<p><b>Nasotracheal and Orotracheal Intubation</b></p> <p><b>Post Intubation Care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 mg/kg ideal body weight (IBW) every 5 – 15 minutes, as needed.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact <b>Medical Direction</b> for additional dosing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Pain Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0.25 mg/kg IV infusion (in 50 – 100 mL bag 0.9% NaCl <b>over 10 minutes</b>). May be administered via bolus. (Consider lower 0.15 mg/kg dose for frail or elderly patients.) <b>OR</b> 0.5 mg/kg IM/IN</li> <li><b>AND</b> Fentanyl (preferred first-line narcotic agent) 25 – 100 mcg slow IV, every 2 – 5 minutes to a total of 300 mcg titrated to pain <b>OR</b> Fentanyl 50 – 100 mcg IM/IN, every 5 minutes to a total of 300 mcg titrated to pain <b>OR</b> Morphine 2 – 5 mg IV/IM every 10 minutes to a total of 20 mg titrated to pain.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May repeat ketamine dose every 15 – 20 minutes for a total of 1 mg/kg.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Contact <b>Medical Direction</b> for additional dosing</li> </ul> <p><b>Rapid Sequence Intubation</b> <b>{Sedate then} Paralyze</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 mg/kg IV/IO</li> </ul>

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<p><b><u>Ketamine</u></b>      <i>(continued)</i></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sedative used in Rapid Sequence Intubation.</li> <li>• Pain control.</li> <li>• Chemical restraint</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Avoid in patients with known schizophrenia.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Restraints</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact <b>Medical Direction</b> for 4 mg/kg <b>IM injection only</b>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Use 100 mg/mL concentration; maximum dose 500 mg.</li> <li>○ Repeat 100 mg IM dose in 5 – 10 minutes for continued agitation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Supraglottic Airway</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 mg/kg ideal body weight (IBW) IV ever 5 – 15 minutes, as needed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Traumatic Brain Injury</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 mg/kg (maximum dose 500 mg) <b>IM injection only</b></li> <li>• Contact <b>Medical Direction</b> for additional dosing.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Ketorolac</u></b> <b><u>(Toradol)</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug used for pain control.</li> <li>• Consider as first line in renal colic.</li> <li>• Avoid Ketorolac in patients with NSAID allergy, aspirin-sensitive asthma, renal insufficiency, pregnancy, or known peptic ulcer disease.</li> <li>• Avoid NSAIDS in women who are pregnant or could be pregnant.</li> <li>• Avoid in patients currently taking anticoagulants such as coumadin.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pain Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 mg IV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Contact <b>Medical Direction</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• 30 mg IM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Contact <b>Medical Direction</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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<p><b><u>Lactated Ringers</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use Lactated Ringers with <b>caution</b> in patients with:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hyperkalemia or severe renal failure (potassium)</li> <li>○ Severe hepatic failure (impaired lactate clearance)</li> <li>○ Severe metabolic acidosis or alkalosis (potassium and worsening alkalosis)</li> <li>○ Lactic acidosis</li> <li>○ Neonates and infants less than 6 months (lactate effects on neonates)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Lactated Ringers may be used as a direct substitute for Normal Saline with the following exceptions and precautions:</p> <p>Lactated Ringers (LR) <b>should NOT</b> be directly combined with the following drug agents (due to limited data or clear evidence of incompatibility). These medications should be administered at a site separate from where the LR is infusing via a normal saline lock/line, or stop the LR infusion for medication injection, then administer a saline flush, and then restart the LR infusion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amiodarone</li> <li>• Atropine</li> <li>• Calcium Chloride</li> <li>• Dexamethasone</li> <li>• Diazepam</li> <li>• Diltiazem</li> <li>• Epinephrine</li> <li>• Etomidate</li> <li>• Fentanyl</li> <li>• Glucagon</li> <li>• Ketamine</li> <li>• Lorazepam</li> <li>• Metoprolol</li> <li>• Naloxone</li> <li>• Pralidoxime</li> <li>• Sodium Bicarbonate</li> <li>• Tranexamic Acid</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Lidocaine</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antiarrhythmic used for control of ventricular dysrhythmias.</li> <li>• Used prior to intubation of patients with suspected increased intracranial pressure (e.g., TBI, ICH) to reduce increases in intracranial pressure</li> <li>• Anesthetic for nasotracheal intubation and intraosseous.</li> <li>• Do not use lidocaine if CHF, cardiogenic shock, heart block or WPW.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cardiac Arrest</b></p> <p><b>V-Fib/Pulseless V-Tach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 – 1.5 mg/kg IV/IO.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Repeat dose 0.5 – 0.75 mg/kg up to a maximum dose of 3 mg/kg.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Intraosseous Access</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slowly administer 20 – 50 mg (1 – 2.5 mL) 2% lidocaine through IO device catheter.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Allow 2 – 5 min for anesthetic effects, if possible.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Nasotracheal Intubation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2% lidocaine jelly.</li> </ul> <p><b>Post-Resuscitative Care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p><b>Tachycardia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 mg/kg IV/IO.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May repeat every 5 minutes (total of 3 doses) to maximum of 3 mg/kg.</li> <li>▪ If successful, consider a maintenance infusion of 1 – 4 mg/min IV/IO.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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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

- **Contact Medical Direction for authorization.**
- 0.5 – 1 mg IV; may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR**
- 1 – 2 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes.

### Hospice

#### Anxiety

- 0.25 – 2 mg PO or SL

### 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

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

- 1 – 2 mg IV/IO every 15 minutes as needed for sedation (maximum 10 mg) **OR** Midazolam 2.5 – 5 mg IV/IO every 5 – 10 minutes (maximum 20 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.
  - Be sure to maintain adequate sedation if patient is paralyzed.

### Restraints

- Contact **Medical Direction** for 1 mg IV, may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR** 2 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes.
  - May combine and administer Benzodiazepine and Haloperidol in one syringe.
  - Contact Medical Direction if additional dosing is needed.

### Seizure

- 1 - 2 mg IV, may repeat every 5 minutes (maximum dose 8 mg)

**(continued)**

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<p><b><u>Lorazepam</u></b> (continued) <b><u>(Ativan)</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seizure control.</li> <li>• Sedation.</li> <li>• Anxiolytic.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Supraglottic Airway</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fentanyl 50 – 100 mcg slow IV/IO push every 15 minutes, as needed (maximum 300 mcg) <b>AND</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Midazolam 2.5 – 5 mg IV/IO every 5 – 10 minutes, as needed (maximum 20 mg) <b>OR</b></li> <li>▪ Lorazepam 1 – 2 mg IV/IO every 15 minutes as needed (maximum 10 mg)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Tachycardia</b> <b>For Cardioversion Sedation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 mg IV/IO, may repeat once in 5 minutes <b>OR</b></li> <li>• 2 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Traumatic Brain Injury</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 mg IV/IO, may repeat once in 5 minutes <b>OR</b></li> <li>• 2 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Magnesium Sulfate</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elemental electrolyte used to treat eclampsia during the third trimester of pregnancy.</li> <li>• A smooth muscle relaxor used in refractory respiratory distress resistant to beta-agonists.</li> <li>• Torsades de Pointes.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Asthma/COPD/RAD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 grams in 50 mL D5W or 0.9% NaCl IV/IO over 10 minutes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cardiac Arrest – Torsades de Pointes With No Pulse</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 – 2 grams IV/IO over 1 – 2 minutes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Obstetrical Emergencies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 grams in 10 mL D5W or 0.9% NaCl given slow IV push over 5 minutes for patients in the third trimester of pregnancy or post partum who are seizing or are post-ictal.</li> </ul> <p><b>Seizures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p><b>Tachycardia – Torsades de Pointes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If pulse present, consider 2 grams IV/IO diluted in 10 mL D5W or 0.9% NaCl over 10 minutes.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Methylprednisolone</u></b> <b><u>(Solu-medrol)</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steroid used in respiratory distress to reverse inflammatory and allergic reactions.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Adrenal Insufficiency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 125 mg IV/IO/IM.</li> </ul> <p><b>Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 mg/kg IV, maximum dose 125 mg every 6 hours – <i>extended care protocol.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Asthma/COPD/RAD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 125 mg IV/IO/IM.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Metoclopramide</u></b> <b><u>(Reglan)</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-emetic used to control nausea and/or vomiting and as alternative treatment for adrenal insufficiency.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Nausea/Vomiting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 mg IV. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May repeat once after 10 minutes if nausea/vomiting persists.</li> <li>▪ May repeat IM every 4 – 6 hours as needed - <i>extended care protocol.</i></li> <li>▪ Administer slowly, over 1 – 2 minutes, to reduce dystonic reactions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# Vermont Adult Medication Reference

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<p><b><u>Metoprolol</u></b> <b>(Lopressor)</b> <b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use for rate control in narrow complex tachycardia with an irregular rhythm.</li> <li>• Contraindicated in patients with HR &lt; 45 bpm, SBP &lt; 100 mmHg, heart block or acute heart failure syndromes (CHF or cardiogenic shock).</li> <li>• Use with caution in patients with bronchospastic disease.</li> <li>• Contraindicated in patients with WPW (Wolff-Parkinson-White) Syndrome.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Tachycardia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 mg IV/IO over 2 – 5 minutes.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May repeat every 5 minutes to a maximum of 15 mg as needed to achieve a ventricular rate of 90 – 100 BPM.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Midazolam</u></b> <b>(Versed)</b> <b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seizure control.</li> <li>• Sedation.</li> <li>• Anxiolytic.</li> </ul> <p><b>(continued)</b></p>	<p><b>Bradycardia</b> <b>Procedural Sedation for Cardiac Pacing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.5 mg IV/IO/intranasal, may repeat once in 5 minutes <b>OR</b></li> <li>• 5 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Continuous Positive Pressure Airway (CPAP)</b> <b>Anxiolytic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Contact Medical Direction for authorization.</b></li> <li>• 2.5 mg IV/intranasal, may repeat once in 5 minutes <b>OR</b></li> <li>• 5 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Hospice</b> <b>Anxiety</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.5 mg IN, repeat every 10 – 15 minutes as needed to a maximum of 7.5 mg.</li> </ul> <p><b>Hyperthermia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.5 mg IV/intranasal, may repeat once in 5 minutes <b>OR</b></li> <li>• 5 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Nasotracheal and Orotracheal Intubation</b> <b>Post Intubation Care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.5 – 5 mg IV/IO, every 5 – 10 minutes as needed for sedation (maximum 20 mg) <b>OR</b> Lorazepam 1 – 2 mg IV/IO every 15 minutes as needed for sedation (maximum 10 mg).</li> <li>• <b>AND</b> Fentanyl 50 – 100 mcg slow IV/IO push. May repeat every 15 minutes as needed (maximum 300 mcg).</li> <li>• <b>Contact Medical Direction</b> for additional dosing.</li> </ul>

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## **Midazolam** (continued) **(Versed)**

### Indications/Contraindications:

- Seizure control.
- Sedation.
- Anxiolytic.

### **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**

- 2.5 – 5 mg IV, every 5 – 10 minutes as needed for sedation (maximum 20 mg) **OR** Lorazepam 1 – 2 mg IV/IO every 15 minutes (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.
  - Be sure to maintain adequate sedation if patient is paralyzed.

### **Rapid Sequence Intubation**

#### **{Sedate then} Paralyze**

- 0.2 mg/kg IV/IO (0.1mg/kg IV/IO for patients in shock).

### **Restraints**

- Contact **Medical Direction** for 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
  - May combine and administer Benzodiazepine and Haloperidol in one syringe.
  - Contact Medical Direction if additional dosing is needed.

### **Seizure**

- May assist with patient's own intranasal midazolam as prescribed.
- 10 mg IM (preferred) or intranasal, may repeat 10 mg IM/IN 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).

### **Supraglottic Airway**

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

### **Tachycardia**

#### **For Cardioversion Sedation**

- 2.5 mg IV/IO/intranasal, may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR**
- 5 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes.

### **Traumatic Brain Injury**

- 2.5 mg IV/IO/intranasal, may repeat once in 5 minutes **OR**
- 5 mg IM, may repeat once in 10 minutes.

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<p><b><u>Morphine Sulfate</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Narcotic analgesic</li> <li>• Avoid use if BP &lt; 100 mmHg.</li> <li>• Associated with increased mortality.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Acute Coronary Syndrome</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 – 4 mg IV/IM every 5 minutes to a maximum of 15 mg titrated to pain and systolic BP remains ≥100 mmHg.</li> </ul> <p><b>Bradycardia</b></p> <p><b>Analgesia for Cardiac Pacing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 – 4 mg IV every 10 minutes to a total of 15 mg and systolic BP ≥100 mmHg.</li> </ul> <p><b>Pain Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 – 5 mg IV/IM every 10 minutes to a total of 20 mg titrated to pain relief and if systolic BP is &gt; 100 mmHg <b>OR</b> Fentanyl (preferred first-line narcotic agent) 25 – 100 mcg slow IV, every 2 – 5 minutes to a total of 300 mcg titrated to pain <b>OR</b> Fentanyl 50 – 100 mcg IM/IN, every 5 minutes to a total of 300 mcg titrated to pain.</li> <li>• <b>AND/OR</b> Ketamine 0.25 mg/kg IV infusion (in 50 – 100 mL bag 0.9% NaCl <b>over 10 minutes</b>). May be administered via bolus. (Consider lower 0.15 mg/kg dose for frail or elderly patients.) <b>OR</b> Ketamine 0.5 mg/kg IM/IN.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May repeat ketamine dose every 15 – 20 minutes for a total of 1 mg/kg.</li> <li>▪ Contact <b>Medical Direction</b> for additional dosing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Naloxone (Narcan)</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Narcotic overdose.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Altered Mental Status (Unknown Etiology)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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 total of 12 mg.</li> <li>• 0.4 – 2 mg IV/IM/IO/SQ/intranasal, titrated to response. If no response, may repeat initial dose every 3 – 5 minutes to a total of 12 mg.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cardiac Arrest</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If suspected opioid overdose, administer 2 mg IV/IO..</li> </ul> <p><b>Pain Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Antidote:</b> 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.</li> </ul> <p><b>Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose</b></p> <p><b>Narcotic Overdose</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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 total of 12 mg.</li> <li>• 0.4 – 2 mg IV/IM/IO/SQ/intranasal, titrated to response.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If no response, may repeat initial dose every 3 – 5 minutes to a total of 12 mg.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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<p><b><u>Neo-Synephrine</u></b></p>	<p><b>Nasotracheal Intubation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre-medicate nasal mucosa with a vasoconstricting nasal decongestant spray such as neo-synephrine, if available.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Nitroglycerin</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vasodilator used in the treatment of chest pain secondary to acute coronary syndrome and CHF</li> <li>Infusion pump required for infusion.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Avoid in patients receiving IV prostacyclins for pulmonary hypertension.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Acute Coronary Syndrome</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate administration of patient's own nitroglycerin every 3 – 5 minutes while symptoms persist and systolic BP remains <math>\geq 100</math> mmHg, to a total of 3 doses. Contact <b>Medical Direction</b> for additional dosing.</li> <li>0.4 mg SL every 3 – 5 minutes while symptoms persist and if systolic BP remains <math>\geq 100</math> mmHg.</li> <li>10 – 30 mcg/min IV if symptoms persist (must be on a pump).             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase IV nitroglycerin by 10 mcg/min every 5 minutes while symptoms persist and systolic remains <math>\geq 100</math> mmHg, max rate 200 mcg/min. Two (2) IV lines or equivalent are recommended and IV nitroglycerin must be on an infusion pump.</li> </ul> </li> <li>If IV nitroglycerin is not available, consider the application of nitroglycerin paste 1 – 2 inches transdermally.</li> </ul> <p><b>Congestive Heart Failure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact <b>Medical Direction</b> for online order to facilitate administration of the patient's own nitroglycerin, while symptoms persist and systolic BP is <math>\geq 140</math> mmHg.</li> <li>0.4 mg SL every 3 – 5 minutes while symptoms persist and systolic BP is <math>\geq 140</math> mmHg.</li> <li>Contact <b>Medical Direction</b> to consider nitroglycerin:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For systolic BP of 140 – 160 mmHg: nitroglycerin 0.4 mg SL.</li> <li>For systolic BP of 160 – 200 mmHg: nitroglycerin 0.8 mg SL (2 tabs/sprays).</li> <li>For systolic BP &gt; 200 mmHg: nitroglycerin 1.2 mg SL (3 tabs/sprays).</li> <li>The above doses may be repeated every 5 minutes until symptomatic improvement or systolic BP is 140 mmHg.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Titrate IV drip until symptomatic improvement or systolic BP of 140 mmHg:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For systolic BP of 140 – 160 mmHg: IV nitroglycerin start at 50 mcg/min.</li> <li>For systolic BP of 160 – 200 mmHg: IV nitroglycerin start at 100 mcg/min.</li> <li>For systolic BP &gt; 200 mmHg: IV nitroglycerin start at 200 mcg/min.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul> </li> <li>If patient improves after SL, may apply nitroglycerin paste 1" – 2" transdermally.</li> </ul>

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<p><b><u>Nitrous Oxide</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-narcotic analgesic gas</li> <li>• Contraindicated in abdominal pain, head/facial/chest/abdominal trauma, headache/migraine, altered mental status, pregnancy, pneumothorax, head injury, or diving emergency patients.</li> <li>• Not to be used if patient has received an opiate.</li> <li>• Requires <b>Medical Direction</b> approval and use of scavenger/ventilation fan.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pain Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient self-administers gas for pain control as needed</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Norepinephrine (Levophed)</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alpha and Beta 1 receptor adrenergic receptor agonist vasopressor</li> <li>• Infusion pump required.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Post Resuscitation Care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infusion 1 – 30 mcg/min IV/IO, titrated to effect.</li> </ul> <p><b>Septic Shock</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If no response after 1000 mL 0.9% NaCl, infuse 1 – 30 mcg/min IV/IO via pump (preferred 1st line agent).</li> </ul> <p><b>Shock</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infusion 1 – 30 mcg/min (preferred agent).</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Ondansetron (Zofran) Anti-emetic</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-emetic used to control nausea and/or vomiting.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Nausea/Vomiting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 mg PO/ODT/IV/IM             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May give IV solution by oral route.</li> <li>▪ Paramedics repeat once after 10 minutes if nausea/vomiting persists.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Oxygen</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 94 – 98%.</li> <li>• Indicated for pre-oxygenation whenever possible prior to endotracheal intubation. Goal oxygen saturation 100%.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 – 4 liters/min via nasal cannula.</li> <li>• 6 – 15 liters/min via NRB mask.</li> <li>• 15 liters via BVM / ETT / supraglottic airway.</li> </ul>

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<p><b><u>Oxytocin</u></b> <b>(Pitocin)</b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b> Post-partum hemorrhage after placental delivery.</p>	<p><b>Normal Labor and Delivery</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 units IM.</li> </ul> <p><b>Obstetrical Emergencies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 units IM <b>OR</b> 20 units in 1,000 mL 0.9% NaCl. Bolus first 500 mL, then infuse remainder at 200 mL/hour.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Pralidoxime</u></b> <b>(2-PAM)</b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antidote for Nerve Agents or Organophosphate Overdose.</li> <li>• Administered with Atropine.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Nerve Agent</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 – 2 gram IV.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reconstitute pralidoxime 1 gram vial with 20 mL sterile water for injection.</li> <li>▪ Dilute reconstituted pralidoxime 1 gram in 100 mL of 0.9% NaCl (may dilute 1-2 grams in this manner).</li> <li>▪ Infuse over 5 minutes (1 gram dose) to 10 minutes (2 gram dose).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Maintenance infusion:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reconstitute pralidoxime 1 gram vial with 20 mL sterile water or 0.9% NaCl for injection.</li> <li>▪ Dilute reconstituted pralidoxime 1 gram in 100 mL of 0.9% NaCl.</li> <li>▪ Infuse 1 gram over 15 – 30 minutes, followed by continuous infusion at 500 mg/hr, to a maximum of 12 grams/day.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Prochlorperazine</u></b> <b>(Compazine)</b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-Emetic used to control Nausea and/or Vomiting.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Nausea/Vomiting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 – 10 mg IV or 5 mg IM             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May repeat once after 10 minutes if nausea/vomiting persists.</li> <li>▪ May repeat IM every 4 – 6 hours as needed – <i>extended care protocol</i>.</li> <li>▪ Administer slowly, over 1 – 2 minutes, to reduce dystonic reactions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Proparacaine</u></b> <b>(Alcaine)</b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topical anesthetic</li> </ul>	<p><b>Eye Injuries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 drops to affected eye; repeat every 5 minutes as needed.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Rocuronium</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Indications/Contraindications:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-depolarizing paralytic agent used as a component of rapid sequence intubation, when succinylcholine is contraindicated and for post intubation paralysis.</li> <li>• Onset of action is longer than succinylcholine, up to 3 minutes, patient will NOT fasciculate.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Rapid Sequence Intubation</b> <b>Post Intubation Sedation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 mg/kg IV/IO via <b>on-line Medical Direction</b> only.</li> </ul> <p><b>Rapid Sequence Intubation</b> <b>{Sedate then} Paralyze</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 mg/kg IV/IO.</li> </ul>

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<p><b><u>Sodium Bicarbonate</u></b></p> <p><b>Indications/Contraindications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A buffer used in acidosis to increase the pH in Cardiac Arrest, Hyperkalemia or Tricyclic (Cyclic) Overdose, crush syndrome</li> </ul>	<p><b>Poisoning/Substance Abuse/Overdose</b>  <b>Tricyclic (Cyclic) with symptomatic dysrhythmias, (eg. tachycardia and wide QRS):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 – 2 mEq/kg IV/IO.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cardiac Arrest</b>  <b>Pre-Existing Metabolic Acidosis or Excited/Agitated Delirium</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 – 2 mEq/kg IV</li> </ul> <p><b>Cardiac Arrest</b>  <b>Wide Complex PEA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 – 2 mEq/kg IV</li> <li>• 1 – 2 mEq/kg IV <b>AND</b> Calcium Gluconate 2 grams IV <b>OR</b> Calcium Chloride (10%) 1 gram IV.</li> </ul> <p><b>Crush/Suspension Injury</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 mEq/kg (maximum dose 50 mEq) IV/IO bolus over 5 minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Infusion secondary to initial bolus: 150 mEq in 1000 mL 0.9% NaCl or D5W at a rate of 250 mL/hour or 4mL/min – <i>extended care protocol.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Succinylcholine</u></b>  <b>Paralytic Agent</b></p> <p><b>Indications/Contraindications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paralytic Agent used as a component of rapid sequence intubation.</li> <li>• Avoid in patients with burns &gt;24 hours old, chronic neuromuscular disease (e.g., muscular dystrophy), ESRD, or other situation in which hyperkalemia is likely.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Rapid Sequence Intubation</b>  <b>{Sedate then} Paralyze</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.5 mg/kg IV/IO immediately after sedation.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Tetracaine</u></b></p> <p><b>Indications/Contraindications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topical anesthetic</li> </ul>	<p><b>Eye Injuries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 drops to affected eye; repeat every 5 minutes as needed.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Tranexamic Acid</u></b>  <b>(TXA)</b></p> <p><b>Indications/Contraindications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See <a href="#">Tranexamic Acid (TXA) Protocol – Adult 4.7</a></li> <li>• <b>Must have approval of District Medical Advisor to use TXA.</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Obstetrical Emergencies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mix 1 gram TXA in 100 mL 0.9% NaCl or LR. Infuse via wide-open IV/IO bolus over approximately 10 minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Notify receiving facility of TXA administration prior to arrival.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Tranexamic Acid</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mix 1 gram TXA in 100 mL 0.9% NaCl or LR. Infuse via wide-open IV/IO bolus over approximately 10 minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Notify receiving facility of TXA administration prior to arrival.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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## **Vecuronium** **Paralytic Agent**

### **Indications/Contraindications:**

- Long-acting non-depolarizing paralytic agent.
- Avoid in patients with chronic neuromuscular disease (e.g., muscular dystrophy).

### **Rapid Sequence Intubation**

#### **Post Intubation Paralysis**

- 0.1 mg/kg IV/IO via on-line Medical Direction only.

### **Rapid Sequence Intubation**

#### **{Sedate then} Paralyze**

- 0.1 mg/kg IV/IO.

# Pediatric Color Coded Appendix

## Weight 3-5 Kg (Avg 4.0 Kg) / Length < 59.5 cm

<b>Vital Signs</b>		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	Wide Complex Tachy	4 mg
<b>Equipment</b>		Epinephrine 1 mg/mL (1:1,000)		Lorazepam	0.4 mg
ET Tube	2.5 - 3.5	Nebulized	2.5 mg	Magnesium Sulfate	
Blade Size	0 - 1	IM	0.04 mg	RAD	160 mg
		Infusion (4 mg in D5W 250 mL)		Torsades	200 mg
<b>Defibrillation</b>		0.1 mcg/kg/min	1.5 mL/hr	Methylprednisolone	4 mg
Defibrillation	8 J, 15 J	0.2 mcg/kg/min	3 mL/hr	Midazolam IM	0.8 mg
Cardioversion	4 J, 8 J	0.3 mcg/kg/min	4.5 mL/hr	Midazolam IV	0.4 mg
		0.4 mcg/kg/min	6 mL/hr	Morphine Sulfate	0.4 mg
<b>Normal Saline</b>	80 mL	0.5 mcg/kg/min	7.5 mL/hr	Naloxone	0.4 mg
		Fentanyl	4 mcg	Norepinephrine (8 mg in D <sub>5</sub> W 250 mL)	
Acetaminophen	60 mg	Glucagon	0.5 mg	0.1 mcg/kg/min	.75 mL/hr
Adenosine		Glucose Oral	1 tube	0.2 mcg/kg/min	1.5 mL/hr
1st Dose	0.4 mg	Hydrocortisone	10 mg	0.5 mcg/kg/min	3.8 mL/hr
Repeat Dose	0.8 mg	Hydroxocobalamin	300 mg	1 mcg/kg/min	7.5 mL/hr
Albuterol	2.5 mg	Ibuprofen	HOLD	2 mcg/kg/min	15 mL/hr
Amiodarone	20 mg	Ipratropium w/ albuterol	0.5 mg	Ondansetron - IV	0.4 mg
Atropine- Bradycardia	0.1 mg			Pralidoxime IM	60 mg
- Organophosphate Poison	0.2 mg			IV (over 15-30 mins)	200 mg
Calcium Chloride	80 mg			Proparacaine	2 drops
Dexamethasone	2.4 mg			Sodium Bicarbonate	4 mEq
				Tetracaine	2 drops

Gray (0-3 months)

## Weight 6-7 Kg (Avg 6.5 Kg) / Length 59.5-66.5 cm

<b>Vital Signs</b>		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	Wide Complex Tachy	6.5 mg
<b>Equipment</b>		Epinephrine 1 mg/mL (1:1,000)		Lorazepam	0.65 mg
ET Tube	3.5	Nebulized	2.5 mg	Magnesium Sulfate	
Blade Size	1	IM	0.065 mg	RAD	260 mg
		Infusion (4 mg in D5W 250 mL)		Torsades	325 mg
<b>Defibrillation</b>		0.1 mcg/kg/min	2.4 mL/hr	Methylprednisolone	6 mg
Defibrillation	10 J, 20 J	0.2 mcg/kg/min	4.9 mL/hr	Midazolam IM	1.3 mg
Cardioversion	5 J, 10 J	0.3 mcg/kg/min	7.3 mL/hr	Midazolam IV	0.65 mg
		0.4 mcg/kg/min	9.7 mL/hr	Morphine Sulfate	0.6 mg
<b>Normal Saline</b>	130 mL	0.5 mcg/kg/min	12.2 mL/hr	Naloxone	0.6 mg
		Fentanyl	6.5 mcg	Norepinephrine (8 mg in D <sub>5</sub> W 250 mL)	
Acetaminophen	100 mg	Glucagon	0.5 mg	0.1 mcg/kg/min	1.2 mL/hr
Adenosine		Glucose Oral	1 tube	0.2 mcg/kg/min	2.5 mL/hr
1st Dose	0.65 mg	Hydrocortisone	10 mg	0.5 mcg/kg/min	6.1 mL/hr
Repeat Dose	1.3 mg	Hydroxocobalamin	400 mg	1 mcg/kg/min	12.2 mL/hr
Albuterol	2.5 mg	Ibuprofen	HOLD	2 mcg/kg/min	24.4 mL/hr
Amiodarone	30 mg	Ipratropium w/ albuterol	0.5 mg	Ondansetron - IV	0.6 mg
Atropine- Bradycardia	0.13 mg			Pralidoxime IM	100 mg
- Organophosphate Poison	0.32 mg			IV (over 15-30 min)	325 mg
Calcium Chloride	130 mg			Proparacaine	2 drops
Dexamethasone	3.9 mg			Sodium Bicarbonate	7 mEq
				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)

<b>Vital Signs</b>		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	Wide Complex Tachy	8.5 mg
<b>Equipment</b>		Epinephrine 1 mg/mL (1:1,000)		Lorazepam	0.85 mg
ET Tube	3.5-4.0	Nebulized	2.5 mg	Magnesium Sulfate	
Blade Size	1	IM	0.085 mg	RAD	340 mg
		Infusion (4 mg in D5W 250 mL)		Torsades	425 mg
<b>Defibrillation</b>		0.1 mcg/kg/min	3.2 mL/hr	Methylprednisolone	8 mg
Defibrillation	20 J, 40 J	0.2 mcg/kg/min	6.4 mL/hr	Midazolam IM	1.7 mg
Cardioversion	9 J, 18 J	0.3 mcg/kg/min	9.5 mL/hr	Midazolam IV	0.85 mg
		0.4 mcg/kg/min	12.8 mL/hr	Morphine Sulfate	0.8 mg
<b>Normal Saline</b>	170 mL	0.5 mcg/kg/min	15.9 mL/hr	Naloxone	0.8 mg
		Fentanyl	8.5 mcg	Norepinephrine (8 mg in D <sub>5</sub> W 250 mL)	
Acetaminophen	130 mg	Glucagon	0.5 mg	0.1 mcg/kg/min	1.6 mL/hr
Adenosine		Glucose Oral	1 tube	0.2 mcg/kg/min	3.2 mL/hr
1st Dose	0.85 mg	Hydrocortisone	20 mg	0.5 mcg/kg/min	8 mL/hr
Repeat Dose	1.7 mg	Hydroxocobalamin	600 mg	1 mcg/kg/min	15 mL/hr
Albuterol	2.5 mg	Ibuprofen	80 mg	2 mcg/kg/min	31.9 mL/hr
Amiodarone	40 mg	Ipratropium w/ albuterol	0.5 mg	Ondansetron - IV	0.8 mg
Atropine- Bradycardia	0.17 mg			- ODT	2 mg
- Organophosphate Poison	0.42 mg			Pralidoxime IM	125 mg
Calcium Chloride	170 mg			IV (over 15-30 min)	425 mg
Dexamethasone	5.1 mg			Proparacaine	2 drops
				Sodium Bicarbonate	9 mEq
				Tetracaine	2 drops

## Weight 10-11 Kg (Avg 10.5 Kg) / Length 74-84.5 cm

Purple (11-18 months)

<b>Vital Signs</b>		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	Wide Complex Tachy	10.5 mg
<b>Equipment</b>		Epinephrine 1 mg/mL (1:1,000)		Lorazepam	1 mg
ET Tube	4	Nebulized	5 mg	Magnesium Sulfate	
Blade Size	1	IM	0.105 mg	RAD	420 mg
		Infusion (4 mg in D5W 250 mL)		Torsades	525 mg
<b>Defibrillation</b>		0.1 mcg/kg/min	3.9 mL/hr	Methylprednisolone	10 mg
Defibrillation	20 J, 40 J	0.2 mcg/kg/min	7.9 mL/hr	Midazolam IM	2 mg
Cardioversion	10 J, 20 J	0.3 mcg/kg/min	11.8 mL/hr	Midazolam IV	1 mg
		0.4 mcg/kg/min	15.8 mL/hr	Morphine Sulfate	1 mg
<b>Normal Saline</b>	210 mL	0.5 mcg/kg/min	19.7 mL/hr	Naloxone	1 mg
		Fentanyl	10.5 mcg	Norepinephrine (8 mg in D <sub>5</sub> W 250 mL)	
Acetaminophen	160 mg	Glucagon	0.5 mg	0.1 mcg/kg/min	2 mL/hr
Adenosine		Glucose Oral	1 tube	0.2 mcg/kg/min	4 mL/hr
1st Dose	1.05 mg	Hydrocortisone	20 mg	0.5 mcg/kg/min	9.9 mL/hr
Repeat Dose	2.1 mg	Hydroxocobalamin	700 mg	1 mcg/kg/min	19.7 mL/hr
Albuterol	2.5 mg	Ibuprofen	100 mg	2 mcg/kg/min	39.4 mL/hr
Amiodarone	50 mg	Ipratropium w/ albuterol	0.5 mg	Ondansetron - IV	1 mg
Atropine- Bradycardia	0.21 mg			- ODT	2 mg
- Organophosphate Poison	0.52 mg			Pralidoxime IM	150 mg
Calcium Chloride	210 mg			IV (over 15-30 min)	525 mg
Dexamethasone	6.3 mg			Proparacaine	2 drops
				Sodium Bicarbonate	11 mEq
				Tetracaine	2 drops

# Pediatric Color Coded Appendix

## Weight 12-14 Kg (Avg 13 Kg) / Length 84.5-97.5 cm

<b>Vital Signs</b>		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	Wide Complex Tachy	13 mg
<b>Equipment</b>		Epinephrine 1 mg/mL (1:1,000)		Lorazepam	1.3 mg
ET Tube	4.5	Nebulized	5 mg	Magnesium Sulfate	
Blade Size	2	IM	0.13 mg	RAD	520 mg
		Infusion (4 mg in D5W 250 mL)		Torsades	650 mg
<b>Defibrillation</b>		0.1 mcg/kg/min	4.9 mL/hr	Methylprednisolone	13 mg
Defibrillation	30 J, 50 J	0.2 mcg/kg/min	9.8 mL/hr	Midazolam IM	2.6 mg
Cardioversion	15 J, 30 J	0.3 mcg/kg/min	14.6 mL/hr	Midazolam IV	1.3 mg
		0.4 mcg/kg/min	19.5 mL/hr	Morphine Sulfate	1.3 mg
<b>Normal Saline</b>	260 mL	0.5 mcg/kg/min	24.4 mL/hr	Naloxone	1.3 mg
		Fentanyl	13 mcg	Norepinephrine (8 mg in D <sub>5</sub> W 250 mL)	
Acetaminophen	195 mg	Glucagon	0.5 mg	0.1 mcg/kg/min	2.5 mL/hr
Adenosine		Glucose Oral	1 tube	0.2 mcg/kg/min	4.9 mL/hr
1st Dose	1.3 mg	Hydrocortisone	30 mg	0.5 mcg/kg/min	12.2 mL/hr
Repeat Dose	2.6 mg	Hydroxocobalamin	900 mg	1 mcg/kg/min	24.4 mL/hr
Albuterol	2.5 mg	Ibuprofen	120 mg	2 mcg/kg/min	48.8 mL/hr
Amiodarone	60 mg	Ipratropium w/ albuterol	0.5 mg	Ondansetron - IV	1.3 mg
Atropine- Bradycardia	0.26 mg			- ODT	2 mg
- Organophosphate Poison	0.65 mg			Pralidoxime IM	200 mg
Calcium Chloride	260 mg			IV (over 15-30 min)	650 mg
Dexamethasone	7.8 mg			Proparacaine	2 drops
				Sodium Bicarbonate	13 mEq
				Tetracaine	2 drops

**Yellow (19-35 months)**

## Weight 15-18 Kg (Avg 16.5 Kg) / Length 97.5-110 cm

<b>Vital Signs</b>		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	Wide Complex Tachy	16.5 mg
<b>Equipment</b>		Epinephrine 1 mg/mL (1:1,000)		Lorazepam	1.7 mg
ET Tube	5	Nebulized	5 mg	Magnesium Sulfate	
Blade Size	2	IM	0.165 mg	RAD	650 mg
		Infusion (4 mg in D5W 250 mL)		Torsades	800 mg
<b>Defibrillation</b>		0.1 mcg/kg/min	6.2 mL/hr	Methylprednisolone	16 mg
Defibrillation:	30 J, 70 J	0.2 mcg/kg/min	12.4 mL/hr	Midazolam IM	3.3 mg
Cardioversion:	15 J, 30 J	0.3 mcg/kg/min	18.6 mL/hr	Midazolam IV	1.7 mg
		0.4 mcg/kg/min	24.8 mL/hr	Morphine Sulfate	1.6 mg
<b>Normal Saline</b>	330 mL	0.5 mcg/kg/min	30.9 mL/hr	Naloxone	1.6 mg
		Fentanyl	16.5 mcg	Norepinephrine (8 mg in D <sub>5</sub> W 250 mL)	
Acetaminophen	250 mg	Glucagon	0.5 mg	0.1 mcg/kg/min	3.1 mL/hr
Adenosine		Glucose Oral	1 tube	0.2 mcg/kg/min	6.2 mL/hr
1st Dose	1.65 mg	Hydrocortisone	30 mg	0.5 mcg/kg/min	15.5 mL/hr
Repeat Dose	3.3 mg	Hydroxocobalamin	1200 mg	1 mcg/kg/min	30.9 mL/hr
Albuterol	2.5 mg	Ibuprofen	160 mg	2 mcg/kg/min	61.9 mL/hr
Amiodarone	80 mg	Ipratropium w/ albuterol	0.5 mg	Ondansetron - IV	1.6 mg
Atropine- Bradycardia	0.33 mg			- ODT	4 mg
- Organophosphate Poison	0.82 mg			Pralidoxime IM	250 mg
Calcium Chloride	330 mg			IV (over 15-30 min)	825 mg
Dexamethasone	10 mg			Proparacaine	2 drops
				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)

<b>Vital Signs</b>		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	0.21 mg	Wide Complex Tachy	20.75 mg
<b>Equipment</b>		Epinephrine 1 mg/mL (1:1,000)		Lorazepam	2.7 mg
ET Tube	5.5	Nebulized	5 mg	Magnesium Sulfate	
Blade Size	2	IM	0.2075 mg	RAD	850 mg
		Infusion (4 mg in D5W 250 mL)		Torsades	1050 mg
<b>Defibrillation</b>		0.1 mcg/kg/min	7.8 mL/hr	Methylprednisolone	20 mg
Defibrillation	40 J, 85 J	0.2 mcg/kg/min	15.6 mL/hr	Midazolam IM	4 mg
Cardioversion	20 J, 40 J	0.3 mcg/kg/min	23.3 mL/hr	Midazolam IV	2 mg
		0.4 mcg/kg/min	31.1 mL/hr	Morphine Sulfate	2 mg
<b>Normal Saline</b>	415 mL	0.5 mcg/kg/min	37.5 mL/hr*	Naloxone	2 mg
		Fentanyl	20 mcg	Norepinephrine (8 mg in D <sub>5</sub> W 250 mL)	
Acetaminophen	311 mg	Glucagon	1 mg	0.1 mcg/kg/min	3.9 mL/hr
Adenosine		Glucose Oral	1 tube	0.2 mcg/kg/min	7.8 mL/hr
1st Dose	2 mg	Hydrocortisone	40 mg	0.5 mcg/kg/min	19.5 mL/hr
Repeat Dose	4 mg	Hydroxocobalamin	1500 mg	1 mcg/kg/min	33.9 mL/hr
Albuterol	2.5 mg	Ibuprofen	200 mg	2 mcg/kg/min	77.8 mL/hr
Amiodarone	100 mg	Ipratropium w/ albuterol	0.5 mg	Ondansetron - IV	2 mg
Atropine- Bradycardia	0.41 mg			- ODT	4 mg
- Organophosphate Poison	1 mg			Pralidoxime IM	300 mg
Calcium Chloride	415 mg			IV (over 15-30 min)	1000 mg
Dexamethasone	10 mg			Proparacaine	2 drops
* Maximum dose				Sodium Bicarbonate	21 mEq
				Tetracaine	2 drops

## Weight 23-29 Kg (Avg 27 Kg) / Length 122-137 cm

Orange (7-9 years)

<b>Vital Signs</b>		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	Wide Complex Tachy	27 mg
<b>Equipment</b>		Epinephrine 1 mg/mL (1:1,000)		Lorazepam	2.7 mg
ET Tube	6	Nebulized	5 mg	Magnesium Sulfate	
Blade Size	2-3	IM	0.27 mg	RAD	1100 mg
		Infusion (4 mg in D5W 250 mL)		Torsades	1350 mg
<b>Defibrillation</b>		0.1 mcg/kg/min	10.1 mL/hr	Methylprednisolone	27 mg
Defibrillation	50 J, 100 J	0.2 mcg/kg/min	20.3 mL/hr	Midazolam IM	5.4 mg
Cardioversion	30 J, 60 J	0.3 mcg/kg/min	30.4 mL/hr	Midazolam IV	2.7 mg
		0.4 mcg/kg/min	37.5 mL/hr*	Morphine Sulfate	2.7 mg
<b>Normal Saline</b>	540 mL	0.5 mcg/kg/min	37.5 mL/hr*	Naloxone	2 mg
		Fentanyl	27 mcg	Norepinephrine (8 mg in D <sub>5</sub> W 250 mL)	
Acetaminophen	405 mg	Glucagon	1 mg	0.1 mcg/kg/min	5.1 mL/hr
Adenosine		Glucose Oral	1 tube	0.2 mcg/kg/min	10.2 mL/hr
1st Dose	2.7 mg	Hydrocortisone	60 mg	0.5 mcg/kg/min	25.3 mL/hr
Repeat Dose	5.4 mg	Hydroxocobalamin	1900 mg	1 mcg/kg/min	50.6 mL/hr
Albuterol	2.5 mg	Ibuprofen	270 mg	2 mcg/kg/min	101.3 mL/hr
Amiodarone	135 mg	Ipratropium w/ albuterol	0.5 mg	Ondansetron - IV	2.7 mg
Atropine- Bradycardia	0.5 mg			- ODT	4 mg
- Organophosphate Poison	1.3 mg			Pralidoxime IM	400 mg
Calcium Chloride	540 mg			IV (over 15-30 min)	1000 mg
Dexamethasone	10 mg			Proparacaine	2 drops
* Maximum dose				Sodium Bicarbonate	27 mEq
				Tetracaine	2 drops

# Pediatric Color Coded Appendix

## Weight 30-36 Kg (Avg 33 Kg) / Length 137-150 cm

<b>Vital Signs</b>		Dextrose 10%	180 mL	Lidocaine	
Heart Rate	85-90	Diazepam (IV)	3.3 mg	Cardiac Arrest	33 mg
Respirations	16-22	Diphenhydramine	50 mg	Traumatic Brain Injury	50 mg
BP Systolic	115 (+/-20)	Epinephrine 0.1 mg/mL (1:10,000)		Intraosseous	18 mg
		Cardiac	0.33 mg	Wide Complex Tachy	33 mg
<b>Equipment</b>		Epinephrine 1 mg/mL (1:1,000)		Lorazepam	3.3 mg
ET Tube	6.5	Nebulized	5 mg	Magnesium Sulfate	
Blade Size	3	IM	0.33 mg	RAD	1320 mg
		Infusion (4 mg in D5W 250 mL)		Torsades	1650 mg
<b>Defibrillation</b>		0.1 mcg/kg/min	12.4 mL/hr	Methylprednisolone	33 mg
Defibrillation	60 J, 130 J	0.2 mcg/kg/min	24.8 mL/hr	Midazolam IM	6.6 mg
Cardioversion	30 J, 60 J	0.3 mcg/kg/min	37.1 mL/hr	Midazolam IV	3.3 mg
		0.4 mcg/kg/min	37.5 mL/hr*	Morphine Sulfate	3.3 mg
<b>Normal Saline</b>	660 mL	0.5 mcg/kg/min	37.5 mL/hr*	Naloxone	2 mg
		Fentanyl	33 mcg	Norepinephrine (8 mg in D <sub>5</sub> W 250 mL)	
Acetaminophen	595 mg	Glucagon	1 mg	0.1 mcg/kg/min	6.2 mL/hr
Adenosine		Glucose Oral	1 tube	0.2 mcg/kg/min	12.4 mL/hr
1st Dose	3.3 mg	Hydrocortisone	80 mg	0.5 mcg/kg/min	31 mL/hr
Repeat Dose	6.6 mg	Hydroxocobalamin	2500 mg	1 mcg/kg/min	61.9 mL/hr
Albuterol	2.5 mg	Ibuprofen	330 mg	2 mcg/kg/min	123.8 mL/hr
Amiodarone	165 mg	lpratropium w/ albuterol	0.5 mg	Ondansetron - IV	3.3 mg
Atropine- Bradycardia	0.5 mg			- ODT	4 mg
- Organophosphate Poison	1.8 mg			Pralidoxime IM	500 mg
Calcium Chloride	660 mg			IV (over 15-30 min)	1000 mg
Dexamethasone	10 mg			Proparacaine	2 drops
* Maximum dose				Sodium Bicarbonate	33 mEq
				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 (mcg/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 (mcg/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 (mcg/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

\*Pressors require infusion pumps

# SCOPE OF PRACTICE

ADULT & PEDIATRIC OTHER SKILLS	EMR	EMT	AEMT	PARAMEDIC
Advanced Spinal Assessment	√	√	√	√
Cervical Spinal Immobilization	√	√	√	√
Cold Pack	√	√	√	√
Emergency Moves for Endangered Patients	√	√	√	√
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	√	√	√	√
Splinting	√	√	√	√
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 (Ready Check Inject)

## Appendix 4 - 1



# SCOPE OF PRACTICE

ADULT AIRWAY MANAGEMENT	EMR	EMT	AEMT	PARAMEDIC
Auto Transport Ventilator		✓	✓	✓
BVM	✓	✓	✓	✓
Capnography		✓	✓	✓
Chest Tube Maintenance		✓		✓
CPAP		✓	✓	✓
Endotracheal Intubation		✓		✓
Endotracheal Suctioning		✓	✓	✓
Extubation		✓		✓
Heimlich Maneuver	✓	✓	✓	✓
High-Flow Nasal Cannula		✓		✓
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
Supraglottic Airway		✓	✓	✓
Surgical Cricothyrotomy		✓		✓
Tracheostomy Maintenance		✓	✓	✓
Tracheostomy Replacement		✓		✓

✓ 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 (Ready Check Inject)

# SCOPE OF PRACTICE

PEDIATRIC AIRWAY MANAGEMENT	EMR	EMT	AEMT	PARAMEDIC
Auto Transport Ventilator		✓	✓	✓
BVM	✓	✓	✓	✓
Capnography		✓	✓	✓
CPAP		✓	✓	✓
Endotracheal Intubation		✓		✓
Endotracheal Suctioning		✓	✓	✓
Extubation		✓		✓
Heimlich Maneuver	✓	✓	✓	✓
High-Flow Nasal Cannula		✓		✓
Nasogastric Tube		✓		✓
Nasopharyngeal Airway		✓	✓	✓
Nebulizer Treatment		✓	✓	✓
Needle Decompression		✓		✓
Oral Suctioning	✓	✓	✓	✓
Orogastric Tube		✓		✓
Oropharyngeal Airway	✓	✓	✓	✓
Oxygen Administration	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pulse Oximetry		✓	✓	✓
Supraglottic Airway		✓	✓	✓
Tracheostomy Maintenance		✓	✓	✓
Tracheostomy Replacement		✓		✓

✓ Skills allowed under existing licensure levels prior to completion of a transition course (FRECA, EMT-B, EMT-I, EMT-P)

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# SCOPE OF PRACTICE

ADULT MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION ROUTE				
	EMR	EMT	AEMT	PARAMEDIC
Auto Injector	Self-Admin Only	√	√	√
Blood Products				√
Endotracheal				√
Inhalation		√	√	√
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		√	√	√
Intramuscular		*	√	√
Intranasal	√ Narcan Only	√ Narcan or Assist	√	√
Intraosseous			√	√
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)

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# SCOPE OF PRACTICE

<b>ADULT VASCULAR ACCESS</b>				
	<b>EMR</b>	<b>EMT</b>	<b>AEMT</b>	<b>PARAMEDIC</b>
Blood Draw		√	√	√
Blood Glucose Analysis		√	√	√
Central Line Maintenance				√
Peripheral Venous Access			√	√
Intraosseous			√	√
<b>PEDIATRIC VASCULAR ACCESS</b>				
	<b>EMR</b>	<b>EMT</b>	<b>AEMT</b>	<b>PARAMEDIC</b>
<b>Pediatric Vascular Access</b>	EMR	EMT	AEMT	Paramedic
Blood Draw			√	√
Blood Glucose Analysis		√	√	√
Central Line Access				√
Intraosseous			√	√
Peripheral Venous Access			√	√
<b>ADULT CARDIAC MANAGEMENT</b>				
	<b>EMR</b>	<b>EMT</b>	<b>AEMT</b>	<b>PARAMEDIC</b>
Acquire and Transmit 12- Lead ECG		√	√	√
Cardiac Arrest Epinephrine			√	√
CPR – Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation	√	√	√	√
Defibrillation – AED	√	√	√	√
Defibrillation – Manual				√
Interpretation of 12 Lead ECG				√
Mechanical CPR		√	√	√
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)

\* Skill allowed only after completion of Protocol Education Module (Ready Check Inject)

# SCOPE OF PRACTICE

PEDIATRIC CARDIAC MANAGEMENT	EMR	EMT	AEMT	PARAMEDIC
Acquire and Transmit 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)

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# 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					Y
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					Y
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	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	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

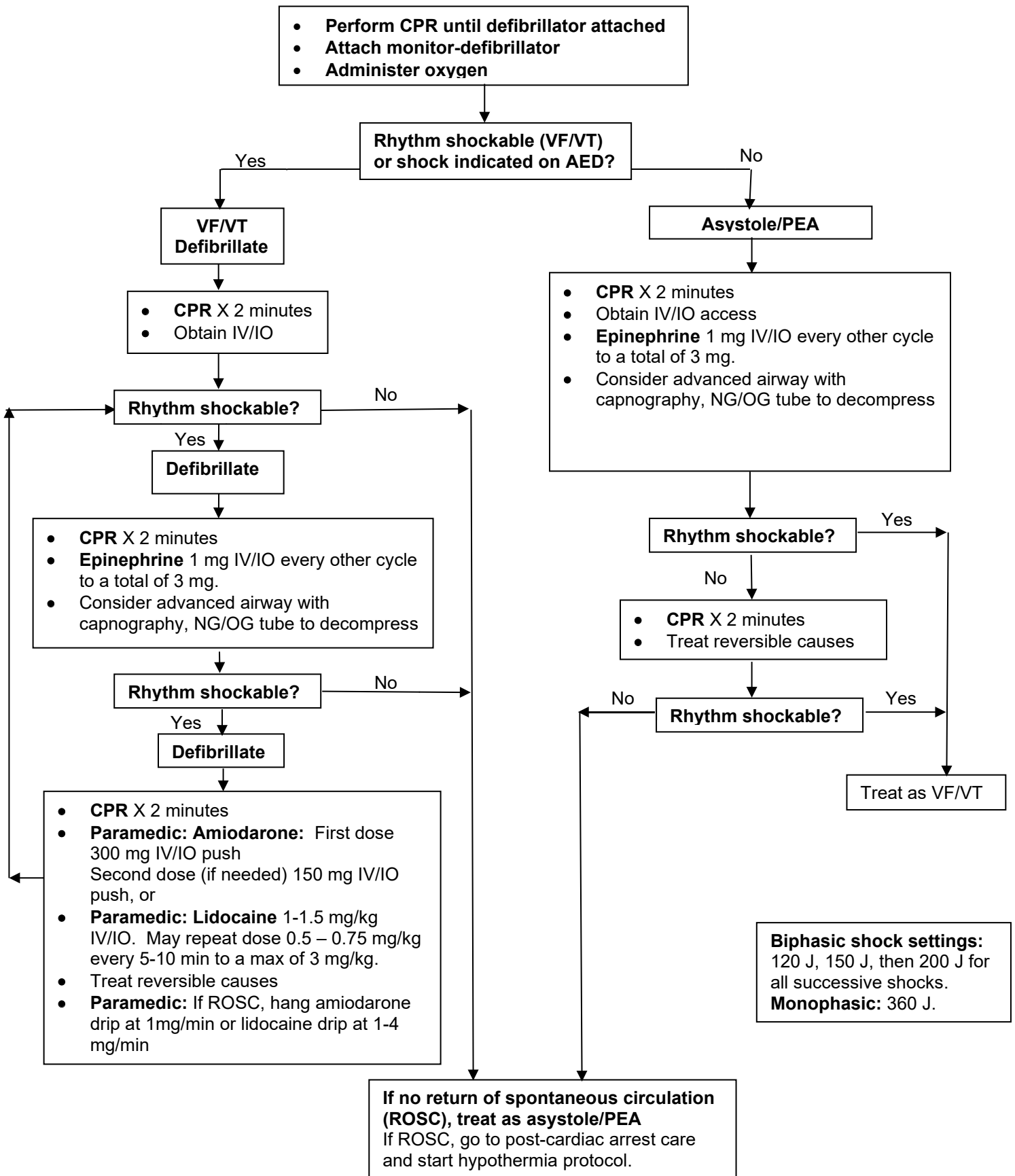
Legend: Y = Yes  
 N = No  
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# VERMONT CRITICAL CARE PARAMEDIC (CCP) SCOPE OF PRACTICE

ADULT & PEDIATRIC MEDICATIONS	EMR	EMT	AEMT	Para	CCP
Leviritacetam (Keppra)					Y
LMWH (Lovenox)					Y
Mannitol 20% (Osmitol)					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)?**

## Synchronized Cardioversion

- Consider sedation
- If regular narrow complex, consider **adenosine** 6 mg rapid IV/IO followed by saline flush. May repeat at 12 mg 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

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.

- 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 50 mL 0.9% NaCl, administer IVP.
- **With pulse:** 1-2 grams magnesium sulfate diluted in 50 mL D5W or 0.9% NaCl, administer over 10 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.

# CPAP for AEMT and Paramedic

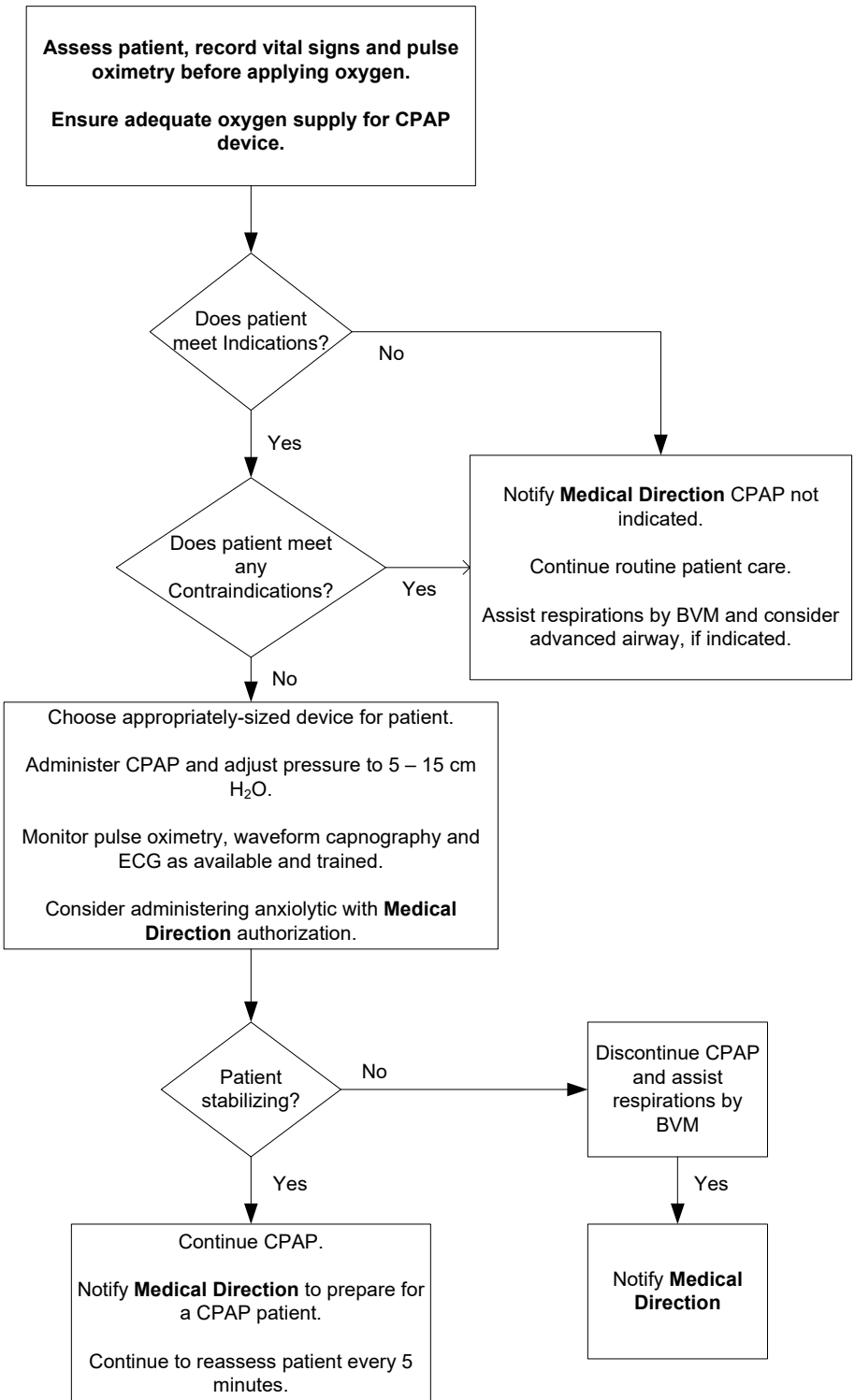
## CPAP Indications

- ❖ 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 MAP < 65 (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





# 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 2008<sup>1</sup>. 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 simultaneously.’<sup>2</sup> 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 threat.’<sup>3</sup>

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 Enforcement<sup>4</sup>. 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)<sup>5</sup>. While there is a place for tactical EMS, this document and the best practices described will not include this concept.

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<sup>1</sup> FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin January 2014

<sup>2</sup> Hartford Consensus April 2, 2013

<sup>3</sup> Homeland Security, Office of Health Affairs: Stakeholder Engagement on Improving Survivability in IED and Active Shooter Incidents, May 16, 2014

<sup>4</sup> International Association of Firefighters – Position Statement: Active Shooter Events (June 17, 2013)

<sup>5</sup> 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 for EMS agencies that wish to participate in this protocol.

## III) Definitions

- a) **Active Shooter:** An individual or individuals 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 may be 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.
  - iii) Area is dynamic and may change frequently depending upon the situation.

# EMS in the Warm Zone

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- 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.
- 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 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, resource 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.

# EMS in the Warm Zone

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2020

## 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 Team role composition and personal traits of members necessary to operate in this specific environment

# EMS in the Warm Zone

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- 9) 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
- 10) Mutual aid locations and integrated training
- 11) Shelter-in-place concepts
- 12) 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 extrication<sup>6</sup>. 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) personnel<sup>7</sup>: Two (2) EMS and two (2) Law Enforcement.

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<sup>6</sup> Hartford Consensus April 2, 2013

<sup>7</sup> 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) 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 patients<sup>8</sup>.
  - 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.

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<sup>8</sup> 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 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, e.g., 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, preferably 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.
- j) Fire Suppression Considerations:

# EMS in the Warm Zone

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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.”<sup>9</sup>
  - 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., fire fight, unstable building collapse, dynamic post-explosive scenario, etc.).
  - b. Threat mitigation techniques will minimize risk to casualties and the providers. These should include techniques and tools for rapid casualty access and egress.

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<sup>9</sup> 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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- 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, extract 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
    - i. Unconscious casualty without airway obstruction:
      1. Chin lift or jaw thrust maneuver.
      2. Nasopharyngeal airway.

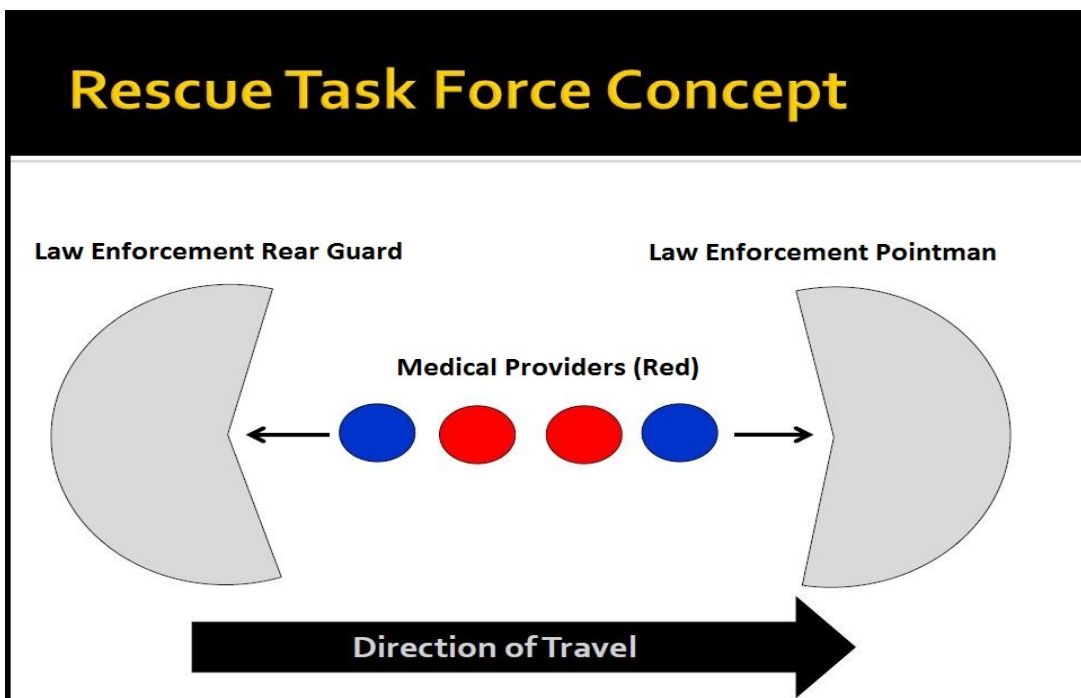
# EMS in the Warm Zone

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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.

**Figure 1**



# EMS in the Warm Zone

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Figure 2

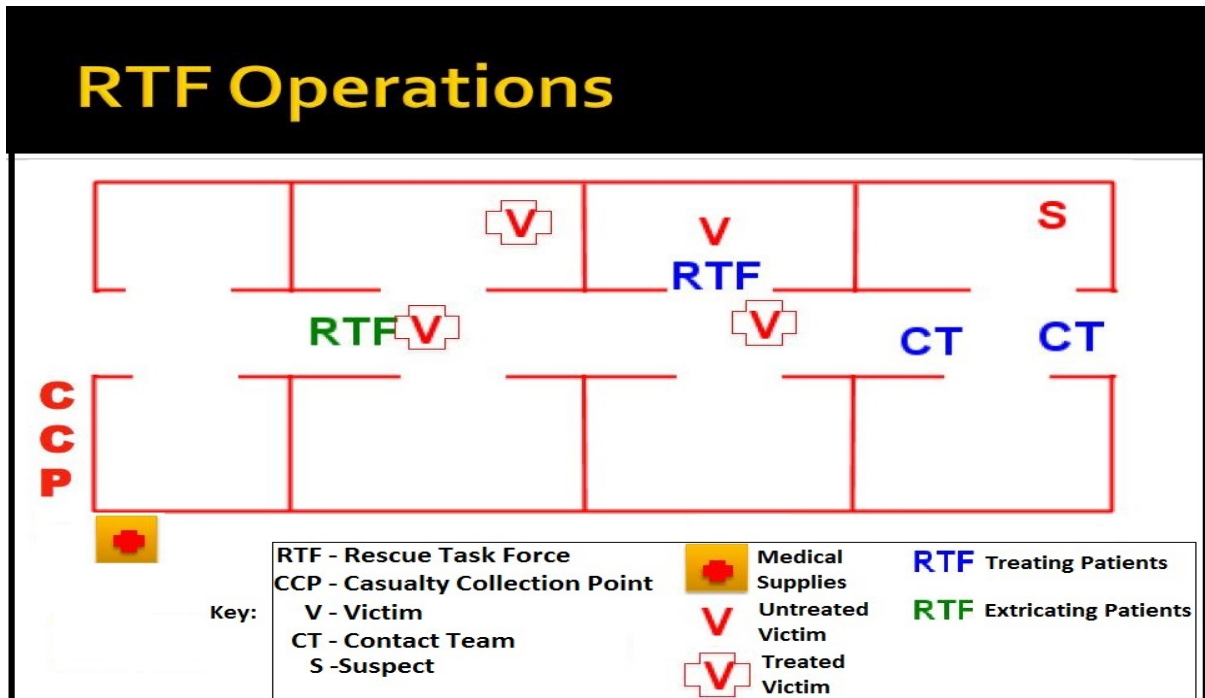


Figure 3

### 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







### 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):

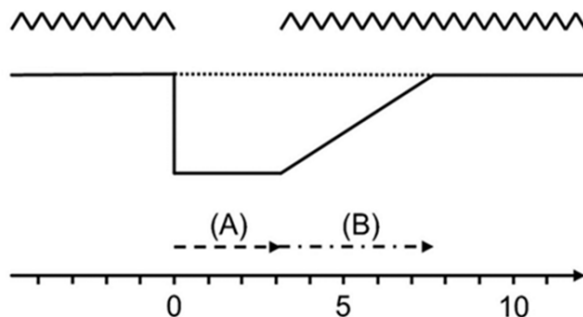
- Use manufacturer's recommendations for joule settings. In general, defibrillate at 2J/kg; perform CPR for 2 minutes and recheck rhythm; if still a shockable rhythm, defibrillate at 4J/kg; perform CPR for 2 minutes; reassess every 2 minutes and continue to defibrillate at 4J/kg.
- If no response after 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.