



**SIERRA SACRAMENTO VALLEY EMS AGENCY  
TREATMENT PROTOCOL – MEDICAL EMERGENCY**

**PEDIATRIC  
REFERENCE NO. P-20**

**SUBJECT: SHOCK**

- Shock in children may be subtle and difficult to recognize. Tachycardia may be the only sign noted. Hypotension is a late sign of shock. Determining B/P may be difficult and readings may be inaccurate in children < 3 years of age
- Obtain History Including:
  - Onset and duration of symptoms
  - Fluid Loss (vomiting, diarrhea)
  - Fever, infection, trauma or ingestion
  - History of: allergic reaction, cardiac disease or rhythm disturbances
- Important signs to watch for:

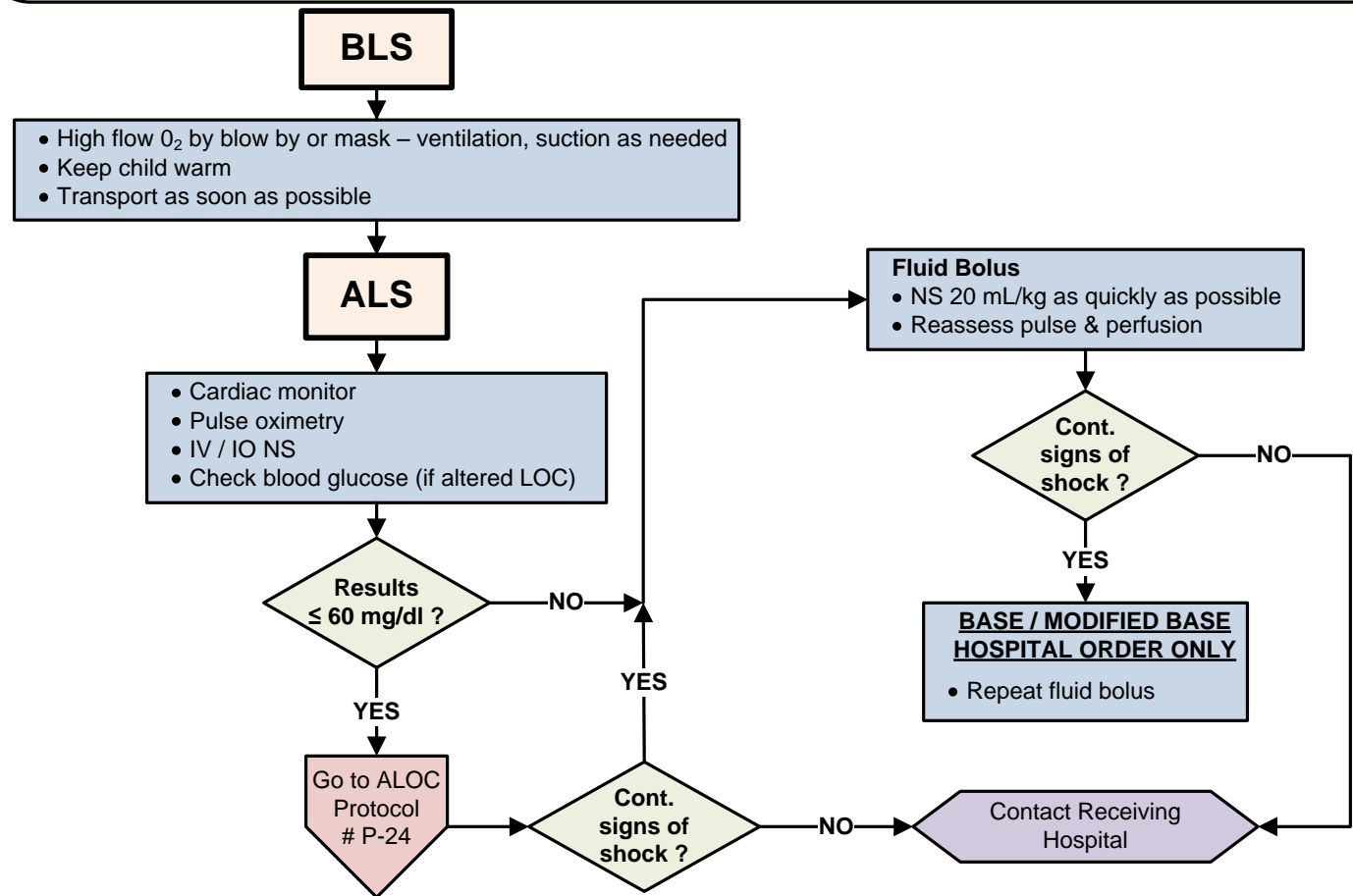
**COMPENSATED SHOCK**

- Tachycardia
- Cool extremities
- Capillary refill time > 2 seconds (despite warm ambient temperature)
- Weak peripheral pulses compared with central pulses
- Normal blood pressure

**DECOMPENSATED SHOCK**

- Hypotension and / or bradycardia (late findings)
- Decreased mental status
- Decreased urine output
- Tachypnea
- Non-detectable distal pulses with weak central pulses

• Note: Perform endotracheal intubation only if BVM ventilation is unsuccessful or impossible



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Approved by:

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Page 1 of 1

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