

**Pulseless Arrest**

Approval: Troy M. Falck, MD – Medical Director

Effective: 12/01/2020

Approval: Victoria Pinette – Executive Director

Next Review: 09/2023

MANUAL CHEST COMPRESSIONS

- Rate: 100-120/min
- Depth: 2 inches, allow full chest recoil
- Minimize interruptions (≤ 10 secs)
- Rotate compressors every 2 mins
- Perform CPR during AED/defibrillator charging
- Resume CPR immediately after shock

MECHANICAL CHEST COMPRESSION DEVICES**Indications**

- Adult pt (≥ 15 yo)
- Non-traumatic cardiac arrest

Contraindications

- Pt does not fit in the device
- 3rd trimester pregnancy

Apply following completion of at least one manual CPR cycle, or at the end of a subsequent cycle

DEFIBRILLATION & GENERAL PT MANAGEMENT

- Analyze rhythm & check pulse after every 2 min CPR cycle
- Biphasic manual defibrillation detail (**AEMT II**):
 - Follow manufacturer's recommendations
 - If unknown, start at 200 J (subsequent doses should be equivalent or higher)
- Movement of pt may interrupt CPR or prevent adequate depth and rate of compressions
- Consider resuscitation on scene up to 30 mins
- Go to ROSC protocol (C-2) if ROSC is obtained

ADVANCED AIRWAY MANAGEMENT

- Consider/establish advanced airway at appropriate time during resuscitation
- Do not interrupt chest compressions to establish an advanced airway
- Waveform capnography (if available) shall be used on all patients with an advanced airway in place
 - An abrupt increase in PETCO₂ is indicative of ROSC
 - Persistently low PETCO₂ levels (< 10 mmHG) suggest ROSC is unlikely

CONSIDER REVERSIBLE CAUSES*

- Hypovolemia
- Hypoxia
- Hydrogen Ion (acidosis)
- Hypo-/hyperkalemia
- Hypothermia
- Tamponade, cardiac
- Tension pneumothorax
- Thrombosis, pulmonary
- Thrombosis, cardiac
- Toxins

*Contact the base/modified base hospital for consultation & treatment/medication orders not specifically listed in this protocol or other applicable policies/protocols

TERMINATION OF RESUSCITATION**Base/Modified Base Hospital Physician Order****

- If resuscitation attempts do not obtain ROSC, consider termination of resuscitation efforts
- BLS termination of resuscitation criteria (all):
 - (1) Arrest not witnessed by EMS
 - (2) No AED shocks delivered
 - (3) No ROSC after 3 rounds of CPR/AED analysis
- LALS Termination of Resuscitation Criteria (all):
 - (1) Arrest not witnessed by EMS
 - (2) No effective bystander CPR was provided, or effective CPR cannot be maintained
 - (3) No ROSC after full LALS care

**In the event of communication failure, EMS personnel may terminate resuscitation, without a base/modified base hospital physician order, on a pt who meets LALS termination of resuscitation criteria.

SEE PAGE 2 FOR TREATMENT ALGORITHM



Pulseless Arrest

BLS

- CPR (with BVM & 100% O₂) x 2 mins - apply AED as soon as possible
- Deliver AED shock, if indicated, & immediately resume CPR
- Analyze rhythm/check pulse after every 2 min CPR cycle

LALS

Cardiac Monitor
(AEMT II)

ASYSTOLE/PEA

VF/VT

IV NS (may bolus up to 1000 mL)

Defibrillation

IV NS (may bolus up to 1000 mL)

Shockable Rhythm?

YES

Treat VF/VT

NO

Shockable Rhythm?

NO

Treat Asystole/PEA

YES

Defibrillation

Shockable Rhythm?

NO

YES

- **Epinephrine 1:10,000 (AEMT II)**
 - IV: 1 mg
 - Repeat every 5 mins for continued/relapsed pulseless arrest
 - Max: 4 total doses

- **Defibrillation every 2 mins for continued/relapsed shockable rhythm**
- For VF/VT refractory to defibrillation:
 - **Epinephrine 1:10,000 (AEMT II)**
 - IV: 1 mg
 - Repeat every 5 mins for continued/relapsed pulseless arrest
 - Max: 4 total doses
- For VF/VT refractory to defibrillation & epinephrine:
 - **Lidocaine (AEMT II)**
 - IV: 1-1.5 mg/kg
 - Repeat x 2: IV 0.5-0.75 mg/kg for continued/relapsed VF/VT
 - Max total: 3 mg/kg