



Pediatric Shock

Approval: Troy M. Falck, MD – Medical Director

Effective: 06/01/2021

Approval: Victoria Pinette – Executive Director

Next Review: 01/2024

- Shock in children may be subtle and difficult to recognize, tachycardia may be the only sign noted.
- Hypotension is a late sign of shock, BP may be difficult to obtain or 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
- 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

