



**Traumatic Pulseless Arrest**

Approval: Troy M. Falck, MD – Medical Director

Effective: 06/01/2024

Approval: John Poland – Executive Director

Next Review: 01/2027

- Assess etiology – if there is suspicion that a medical event caused the traumatic arrest, treat per the applicable Non-Traumatic Pulseless Arrest Protocol (C-1 or C-1P).
- Epinephrine is likely not beneficial and may be harmful in traumatic pulseless arrest.
- Utilize mechanical chest compression devices in accordance with manufacturer indications/contraindications. If a mechanical chest compression device is used, transport shall not be significantly delayed for application of the device.
- Biphasic manual defibrillation detail (**AEMT II**): follow manufacturer’s recommendations, if unknown, start at 200 J (subsequent doses should be equivalent or higher).
- CPR need not be initiated, and may be discontinued, for patients who meet S-SV EMS Obvious Death or Probable Death Criteria (Refer to Policy 820).

**BLS**

- High-Quality CPR (with BVM & 100% O<sub>2</sub>) – apply AED as soon as possible
- Deliver **AED SHOCK**, if indicated by AED, & immediately resume high-quality CPR
- Hemorrhage control as appropriate
- Consider Spinal Motion Restriction (SMR) with a backboard for the following:
  - CPR
  - Blunt mechanism indicating a high risk for spinal injury

**LALS**

- Initiate rapid transport – LALS treatment/monitoring should be performed during transport
- Cardiac monitor (**AEMT II**)
- Continue CPR followed by **DEFIBRILLATION** every 2 mins for continued/relapsed shockable rhythm (VF/VT)
- IV/IO (IO authorized for pediatric pts only) NS:
  - **Adult pts:** Administer 1 L fluid bolus
  - **Pediatric pts:** Administer 20 mL/kg fluid bolus

**Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC)**

- Manage airway as needed, optimize ventilation & oxygenation
  - O<sub>2</sub> at appropriate rate to maintain SpO<sub>2</sub> ≥94% (do not hyperventilate)
- Assess V/S, including SpO<sub>2</sub> – reassess V/S every 3-5 mins if possible
- Continuous ETCO<sub>2</sub> monitoring (**AEMT II**) – goal 35-45 mmHg
- Titrate fluid boluses:
  - **Adult pts:** Titrate to SBP of ≥90 for pts <65 years of age, or ≥100 for pts ≥65 years of age
  - **Pediatric pts:** Titrate to age appropriate SBP (max: 60 mL/kg)
- Monitor for reoccurrence of pulseless arrest