

APPROVED: SIGNATURE ON FILE IN EMS OFFICE
Executive Director

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/1/2011

SIGNATURE ON FILE IN EMS OFFICE
Medical Director

SUPERSEDES: _____

REVISED: 2/2011

REVIEW DATE: 5/2016

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VENTRICULAR FIBRILLATION - PULSELESS VENTRICULAR TACHYCARDIA

- I. AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9
- II. PURPOSE: To serve as a patient treatment standard for EMT-Is and Paramedics within their scope of practice.
- III. PROTOCOL: **V-FIB:** Bizarre, rapid, irregular, ineffective rhythm with electrical waveforms varying in size and shape. There is no P wave. QRS complexes are absent. V-fib may masquerade in one lead as asystole. Be sure to check at least two leads to confirm asystole. **V-TACH:** Regular or slightly irregular rhythm with no pulse. Heart rate 100 to 200 (commonly about 120). A-V disassociation is present: P-waves may be seen unrelated to QRS complex. QRS complex distorted, wide (> 0.12 seconds) and bizarre. T-waves usually have opposite axis as QRS complex. Consider 12 Lead EKG if spontaneous pulses return.

STANDING ORDERS

ASSESS	CAB
CPR	In an unwitnessed arrest or when no CPR has been initiated by bystanders give 5 cycles of CPR (about 2 minutes). Do not interrupt chest compressions to perform airway management or to administer medications.
DEFIBRILLATE	Defibrillate at 360j (or clinically equivalent biphasic energy doses). Immediately resume CPR for 5 cycles (about 2 minutes), then re-check rhythm and defibrillate as appropriate. Interruption of CPR should be brief.
SECURE AIRWAY/ INTUBATE	Using the simplest effective method. A BLS airway with objective evidence of good ventilation and oxygenation is adequate and acceptable. Consider intubation/perilaryngeal airway. Refer to General Procedures Protocol 554.00.
IV/IO ACCESS	TKO
EPINEPHRINE	1 mg of 1:10,000 IV/IO push Repeat every 3 minutes.
DEFIBRILLATE	360 J (or clinically equivalent biphasic energy doses)
LIDOCAINE	1.5 mg/kg IV/IO push Repeat once in 3 minutes if V-Fib/ pulseless V-Tach persists.
DEFIBRILLATE	360 J (or clinically equivalent biphasic energy doses). Repeat after each medication administered if V-Fib/Pulseless V- tach persists. Reassess rhythm after each shock.
LIDOCAINE	If patient converts to perfusing rhythm following defibrillation. (Do not give if conversion rhythm is idioventricular or AV Block.) Give either multiple-bolus or drip: -Lidocaine: 0.5 mg/kg IV/IO Repeat every 10 minutes OR; -Lidocaine: 2 mg/minute IV drip. Increase to maximum 4 mg/minute if ventricular ectopy persists.
SODIUM BICARBONATE	1mEq/kg IV/IO for suspected hyperkalemia or cyclic antidepressant overdose or cocaine/amphetamine overdose in cardiac arrest. Repeat every 5 minutes. May give before Lidocaine.
CALCIUM CHLORIDE	1000mg (10ml) IV for suspected hyperkalemia. Repeat once in 5 minutes. May give before Lidocaine. Note: Use with caution in patients on digitalis.

BASE PHYSICIAN ORDERS

DETERMINATION OF DEATH: Refer to Determination of Death policy 570.20.