

APPROVED: SIGNATURE ON FILE IN EMS OFFICE
 Executive Director

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 Medical Director

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PULSELESS ELECTRICAL ACTIVITY

- 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: The absence of a detectable pulse and the presence of some type of regular electrical activity other than V-Tach define this group of arrhythmias. Many of these patients do have cardiac mechanical activity without effective cardiac output (they are in profound shock). This category includes Electromechanical dissociation (EMD), Idioventricular rhythms, Pseudo-EMD, and Bradycardic rhythms. Consider 12 Lead EKG if spontaneous pulses return.

Consider Possible Causes:

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| HYPOVOLEMIA (volume infusion) | PULMONARY EMBOLISM |
| HYPOXIA (ventilation) | DRUG OVERDOSE (appropriate antidote) |
| CARDIAC TAMPONADE | HYPERKALEMIA (sodium bicarb, calcium chloride) |
| TENSION PNEUMOTHORAX (needle decompression) | ACIDOSIS (ventilation) |
| HYPOTHERMIA (refer to Hypothermia Policy 554.62) | MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION |

STANDING ORDERS

ASSESS	CAB
CPR	In an un-witnessed 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.
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	Two 14-16 gauge; wide open until systolic BP 90-100 mmHg or 2L infused, then TKO
EPINEPHRINE	1 mg of 1:10,000 IV/IO. Repeat every 3 minutes.
SODIUM BICARBONATE	1 mEq/kg IV/IO for suspected hyperkalemia (renal dialysis or peritoneal dialysis patient) or cyclic antidepressant overdose or cocaine or amphetamine overdose in cardiac arrest.
CALCIUM CHLORIDE	1000 mg (10 ml) IV for suspected hyperkalemia.

BASE PHYSICIAN ORDERS

DETERMINATION OF DEATH: Refer to Determination of Death Policy 570.20