

APPROVED: SIGNATURE ON FILE IN EMS OFFICE  
Executive Director

SIGNATURE ON FILE IN EMS OFFICE  
Medical Director

EFFECTIVE DATE: 01/01/2004

SUPERSEDES: \_\_\_\_\_

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEW DATE: 01/01/2009

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**PEDIATRIC ASYSTOLE**

- I. AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9
- II. PURPOSE: To serve as the treatment standard for EMT-Is and EMT-Ps in treating patients.
- III. PROTOCOL:

Asystole represents the total absence of electrical activity in the heart. There is no rhythm, although an occasional P wave or QRS may be seen. Heart rate is less than five beats per minute. Note: Asystole should be confirmed by at least two leads, since low-amplitude ventricular fibrillation can mimic asystole.

For the majority of children, asystole represents death, not a treatable arrhythmia. Look for the few patients with treatable causes.

Consider Code 2 transport of all patients in cardiac arrest, unless special circumstances which might favor survival are suspected.

**STANDING ORDERS**

**ABC**

**CPR**

Minimize interruptions in compression as much as possible.

**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 ~~while en route~~ only if unable to establish adequate ventilation and oxygenation using a BVM. Confirm placement, if intubated, with end-tidal CO<sub>2</sub> detector ~~and esophageal detector device.~~ **Continuous waveform capnography should be used in all intubated patients, if available.**

**IV/IO ACCESS**

TKO with microdrip tubing and volume control chamber.

**CONSIDER TREATABLE  
CAUSES**

Hypoxia (oxygenate)  
Hypothermia (Rewarm. Refer to Hypothermia Protocol page 555.62)  
Hyperkalemia (sodium bicarbonate, calcium chloride)

**EPINEPHRINE**

0.01 mg/kg of 1:10,000 IV/IO push ~~or 0.1 mg/kg of 1:1000 ET.~~ Repeat every 3 minutes ~~(do not delay epinephrine due to difficult IV/IO starts. Give via ET).~~

**BASE PHYSICIAN ORDERS**

**DECLARATION OF DEATH**

After 3 doses of epinephrine, if no reversible causes are identified.