

APPROVED: SIGNATURE ON FILE IN EMS OFFICE
Executive Director

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Medical Director

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SUPERSEDES: _____

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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 ventricle. There is no rhythm, although an occasional P wave or agonal 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 adults, 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

ABCs

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. Confirm placement, if intubated, with end-tidal CO₂ detector and esophageal detector device. Continuous waveform capnography should be used in all intubated patients.

IV/IO ACCESS

TKO

**CONSIDER TREATABLE
CAUSES**

Hypoxia (oxygenate)

Hypothermia (rewarm) Refer to Hypothermia Protocol 554.62

Hyperkalemia (sodium bicarbonate, calcium chloride)

EPINEPHRINE

1 mg of 1:10,000 IV/IO push (or 2 mg of 1:1,000 ET-Flush with 5 ml NS). Repeat every 3 minutes (Do not delay epinephrine due to difficult IV/IO starts - give via ET).

ATROPINE

1 mg IV/IO push (or 2 mg ET-Flush with 5 ml NS). Repeat every 3 minutes up to a total of 3 doses.

SODIUM BICARBONATE

1 mEq/kg IV/IO for suspected hyperkalemia (~~hemorenal~~ dialysis or peritoneal dialysis patient) or cyclic antidepressant overdose or cocaine/amphetamine overdose in cardiac arrest. Repeat every 5 minutes.

CALCIUM CHLORIDE

1000 mg (10ml) IV for suspected hyperkalemia. Repeat once in 5 minutes.

BASE PHYSICIANS ORDERS

~~DECLARATION OF~~
~~DEATH DETERMINATION OF~~ Refer to ~~Declaration of Death~~ Policy 570.20
~~DEATH~~