

DETERMINATION OF DEATH - ALS

ALWAYS USE BODY SUBSTANCE ISOLATION PRECAUTIONS

INDICATION

Patient in cardiac arrest where resuscitation may be limited or not indicated and who does not meet criteria for BLS Determination of Death

PROCEDURE

- Confirm pulseless and apneic
- Determination of death can be made prior to initiating resuscitation if all of the following are present:
 - Presenting rhythm is asystole and has been documented in two monitoring leads for one minute or in one lead if an AED is the only available monitor
 - Event was unwitnessed
 - Bystander CPR was not initiated
 - No AED or manual shock applied
- If determination of death cannot be made, perform ALS resuscitation for 30 minutes or until three rounds of medication appropriate for presenting rhythm have been administered.
 - Resuscitation may be discontinued and determination of death made when any of the following are present:
 - Information becomes available precluding initiation of resuscitation efforts
 - ETCO₂ is less than or equal to 10mm/Hg after 20 minutes. If ETCO₂ not available:
 - The above procedures have been completed and no ROSC has occurred and the rhythm is non-perfusing wide and ventricular complex at a rate less than 40 or is asystole
- When applicable, notify the appropriate law enforcement agency and remain on the scene until law enforcement or coroner arrives
- Complete the Determination of Death form and leave a copy at the scene if the patient will be transferred to the coroner.
- If criteria for determination of death are met when patient is enroute to the hospital, notify the receiving facility

PHYSICIAN CONSULT

- Indications are present that resuscitative efforts are not wanted or appropriate (terminal illness, family request, etc.), and above criteria is not present

DOCUMENTATION- ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

- Criteria for discretionary determination of death (i.e., DNR or valid POLST form)
- Name and phone number of physician authorizing termination of resuscitation
- When possible, attach copy of DNR to PCR or include type of DNR and physician information.

RELATED POLICIES/ PROCEDURES

- BLS Determination of Death BLS 5
- DNR GPC 7
- Asystole C3
- Patient Care Record (PCR) 7006