

DETERMINATION OF DEATH FIRST RESPONDER BLS

ALWAYS USE BODY SUBSTANCE ISOLATION PRECAUTIONS

INDICATION

Patient in cardiac arrest where resuscitation may not be indicated

PROCEDURE

- Confirm pulseless and apneic
- CPR may be withheld and death declared if ANY of the following criteria are met:
 - Obvious clinical signs of irreversible death (e.g., rigor mortis, dependent lividity, decapitation, transection, or decomposition)
 - A valid, signed, and dated advance directive or POLST form indicating that resuscitation is not desired
 - MCI incidents-where death is determined according to S.T.A.R.T. triage
- When patient meets criteria for declaration of death in the field:
 - Notify the appropriate law enforcement agency if applicable
 - Remain on the scene until law enforcement or coroner arrive if applicable
 - Complete a Field Determination of Death Form at scene and leave one copy for coroner if applicable

DOCUMENTATION-ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

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

RELATED POLICIES/ PROCEDURES

- DNR GPC 7
- BLS PR 6
- Patient Care Record (PCR) 7006