

# ALS DETERMINATION OF DEATH

## Indications

Patient in cardiac arrest who does not meet criteria for BLS determination of death and does not have a valid DNR order. **Excludes MCI incidents where triage principles preclude the initiation of CPR and circumstances where scene or bystander safety is threatened.**

Apply leads and document rhythm in two leads for a minimum of 1 minute. DOD can be made prior to, or immediately after initiating resuscitation when:

- MEDICAL**  
ALL must be present
- Presenting rhythm is asystole
  - Event was NOT witnessed
  - Bystander CPR was NOT initiated
  - Absence of potentially reversible cause of cardiac arrest
  - No AED or manual shock delivered

- TRAUMA**  
ALL must be present
- Evidence of significant trauma or blood loss
  - Pulseless
  - Apneic
  - Absence of potentially reversible cause of arrest

- If DOD cannot be made:**
- Perform ALS resuscitation for 20 minutes on scene
  - If patient is in refractory V-Fib after 3 shocks, immediately transport to nearest STEMI receiving center
  - If no ROSC, resuscitation may be discontinued, and determination of death made when ANY of the following are present:
    - A valid DNR or POLST form becomes available and precludes continuation of resuscitation efforts
    - ETCO2 ≤ 10mmHg and the rhythm is asystole or PEA

Does patient meet all above criteria?

**YES**  
Do not initiate resuscitation

**NO**  
Initiate Resuscitation

**If determination of death still cannot be made**  
Continue resuscitation for an additional 10 minutes (30 minutes total). Resuscitation may be discontinued and determination of death made if ROSC has not occurred

- Consult Trauma Center for further care and destination decision
- If consult is not available, the patient should be transported to the time closest facility if they have any of the following:
  - Patients with unmanageable airway
  - Uncontrolled external hemorrhage
  - CPR in progress (unless transporting to SRC for refractory V-Fib)

- PHYSICIAN CONSULT**
- Evidence exists that resuscitative efforts are not desired or appropriate and above criteria is not met
  - ETCO2 >10mm/Hg after 30 minutes of resuscitation efforts

- When patient meets criteria for determination of death in the field:**
- Notify the appropriate law enforcement agency and remain on scene until released by law enforcement
  - Complete a Field Determination of Death form at scene and leave one copy for coroner if patient is transferred to coroner