

ALS DETERMINATION OF DEATH

Indications

- Patient in cardiac arrest who does not meet criteria for BLS determination of death (DOD) 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 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
 - Effective bystander CPR was NOT initiated
 - No evidence of potentially reversible cause of arrest
 - No AED or manual shock delivered

- Trauma- ALL must be present
- Blunt, penetrating or profound multi-system trauma, or significant blood loss
 - Pulseless and Apneic
 - Absence of potentially reversible cause of arrest

- If determination of death cannot be made**
- Perform ALS resuscitation for 20 minutes on scene
 - If ETCO₂ ≤20mmHg and the rhythm is asystole or PEA, resuscitation may be discontinued and determination of death made

Does patient meet all above criteria?

- Yes ↓ No ↓
- Do not initiate resuscitation

Initiate resuscitation

- If determination of death still cannot be made**
- If ETCO₂ ≥20 mmHg and the rhythm is asystole or PEA continue resuscitation for ten additional minutes (30 minutes total) at which point determination of death can be made
 - 📞 **PHYSICIAN CONSULT** if ETCO₂ ≥20mmHG after 30min of resuscitation

- 📞 **TRAUMA CENTER CONSULT** for further care and destination decision
- If consult is not available, transport patient to the closest facility if there is the following:
 - Unmanageable airway
 - Uncontrolled external hemorrhage
 - CPR in progress (unless transporting to SRC for refractory V-Fib)

- When patient meets criteria for declaration of death in the field:**
- Notify the appropriate law enforcement agency and remain on the scene until released by law enforcement
 - Complete a Field Determination of Death Form at scene and leave a copy with law enforcement or coroner, if applicable