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.**

  - **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/or Apnea
    - Absence of potentially reversible cause of arrest

- **If determination of death cannot be made**
  - Perform ALS resuscitation for 20 minutes on scene
  - If patient is in refractory VFib after 3 unsuccessful shocks, immediately transport to nearest available STEMI Receiving Center
  - If above procedures have been completed without 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 which precludes continuation of resuscitation efforts
    - ETCO2 ≤ 10mm/Hg and the rhythm is asystole or PEA

- **If determination of death still cannot be made**
  - Continue resuscitation for ten additional minutes (30 minutes total) at which point resuscitation may be discontinued and determination of death made if ROSC has not occurred

- **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 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 copy for coroner if the patient will be transferred to coroner