

# 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/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

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 ten additional minutes (30 minutes total) at which point resuscitation may be discontinued and determination of death made if ROSC has not occurred

- 📞 **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)

- 📞 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