

DROWNING/ NEAR DROWNING

ALWAYS USE STANDARD PRECAUTIONS

INDICATION

- Drowning: loss of consciousness in water, now in full arrest
- Near Drowning: loss of consciousness in water, not in full arrest

TREATMENT

- ALS RMC
- Ensure patent airway
- Protect cervical spine if neck injury suspected
- High flow oxygen. Prepare to support ventilations with appropriate airway adjuncts (CPAP if available)
- Anticipate vomiting: take precautions against aspiration and be prepared to suction
- Remove wet clothing
- Keep patient warm and dry

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

- If patient presents in full arrest and is normothermic, treat as cardiac arrest
- If patient is hypothermic (<95°F), refer to Cold Induced Injury policy

RELATED POLICIES/ PROCEDURES

- Spinal Immobilization GPC 13
- Cold Induced Injury E 2
- CPAP ALS PR 13
- Determination of Death BLS 5