

POLICY: 555.12
TITLE: Pulseless Electrical Activity (Pediatric)

EFFECTIVE: 7/1/2018
REVIEW: 7/2023
SUPERCEDES:

APPROVAL SIGNATURES ON FILE IN EMS OFFICE

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PEDIATRIC PULSELESS ELECTRICAL ACTIVITY

- I. AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9
- II. PURPOSE: To serve as the treatment standard for EMRs, EMTs, AEMTs and Paramedics within their scope of practice.
- III. PROTOCOL:

The absence of a detectable pulse and the presence of some type of electrical activity other than V-Tach defines this group of arrhythmias. Many of these patients do have cardiac mechanical activity without effective cardiac output (they are in profound shock). Consider hypovolemia in these patients.

Consider Possible Causes: (Possible field treatments in parentheses)

HYPOVOLEMIA (volume infusion)	PULMONARY EMBOLISM
HYPOXIA (ventilation)	DRUG OVERDOSE (appropriate antidote)
CARDIAC TAMPONADE	HYPERKALEMIA (sodium bicarb, calcium chloride)
TENSION PNEUMOTHORAX (needle decompression)	ACIDOSIS (ventilation)
HYPOTHERMIA (See Hypothermia 555.62)	MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION

STANDING ORDERS	
ASSESS	CAB
CPR	In an un-witnessed arrest or when no CPR has been initiated by bystanders give 5 cycles of CPR (about 2 minutes). Minimize interruptions in compression as much as possible.
SECURE AIRWAY	Using the simplest effective method. A BLS airway with objective evidence of good ventilation and oxygenation is adequate and acceptable. Refer to Policy 554.00 – General Protocols.
IV/IO ACCESS	TKO with microdrip tubing and volume control chamber.
CONSIDER TREATABLE CAUSES	Hypovolemia: Bolus 20ml/kg. Repeat in 5 minutes. Reassess after each bolus Tension pneumothorax: Refer to Policy 554.00 – General Protocols Hypoxia: Provide oxygen Hypothermia: Refer to Policy 555.62 – PED Hypothermia
EPINEPHRINE	0.01mg/kg of 1:10,000 IV/IO push. Repeat every 3 minutes.
IV FLUID	20 ml/kg bolus. Repeat in 5 minutes. Reassess the patient after each bolus.
BASE PHYSICIAN ORDERS	
DECLARATION OF DEATH	After 3 doses epinephrine and 2 fluid boluses, if no reversible causes are identified.