

POLICY: 555.62
TITLE: Pediatric Hypothermia - Frostbite

EFFECTIVE: 07/01/2024
REVIEW: 07/2027
SUPERCEDES:

APPROVAL SIGNATURES ON FILE IN EMS OFFICE

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PEDIATRIC HYPOTHERMIA - FROSTBITE

- I. AUTHORITY
Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9
- II. PURPOSE
To serve as a patient treatment standard for EMRs, EMTs, and Paramedics within their scope of practice.
- III. PROTOCOL
Patients with severe hypothermia may appear dead (absent pulse, respiration, and fixed pupils) but still have cardiac electrical activity.

USE EXTREME CAUTION WHEN MOVING PATIENT

Provider Key: F = First Responder/EMR E = EMT O = EMT Local Optional SOP
P = Paramedic D = Base Hospital Physician Order Required

Moderate Hypothermia (92°-95° F / 33°-35° C) Severe Hypothermia (Core temp < 92° F / < 33° C)	F	E	O	P	D
ASSESSMENT	X	X	X	X	
BLS AIRWAY: okay if airway patent. Support ventilations with appropriate airway adjuncts.	X	X	X	X	
SUPRAGLOTTIC AIRWAY: if patient's GCS is less than 8 and not rapidly improving, consider SGA.				X	
PULSE OXIMETRY: apply and monitor.		X	X	X	
CAPNOGRAPHY: apply and monitor if SGA has been placed.				X	
OXYGEN: if pulse oximetry < 94% or signs of respiratory distress or hypoperfusion.	X	X	X	X	
WARMING MEASURES: remove wet clothing and cover with warm dry blankets. Use ambient heat and heat packs as able.	X	X	X	X	
ECG MONITOR: lead placement may be delegated. Treat as indicated.				X	
VASCULAR ACCESS: IV/IO, rate as indicated with warm fluids.				X	
TEST FOR GLUCOSE		X	X	X	
ORAL GLUCOSE: consider if conscious with an intact gag reflex if blood sugar < 70 mg/dL.		X	X	X	
D10: 2-4 mL/kg IV/IO if blood sugar < 70 mg/dL for age > 28 days old or 2 mL/kg IV/IO if blood sugar < 40 mg/dL age ≤ 28 days old. Recheck blood glucose 10 minutes post infusion and repeat as needed.				X	
GLUCAGON: If no IV/IO access and unable to tolerate oral glucose, give 0.05 mg/kg IM (max 1 mg) if blood glucose < 70 mg/dL. Recheck blood glucose 10 minutes post injection. If blood glucose remains < 70 mg/dL, repeat dose.				X	

	F	E	O	P	D
FROSTBITE (skin is white, numb or burning, soft to touch and does not recolor with touch)					
WARMING MEASURES: move patient to warm environment and wrap affected extremity with thick, warmed blankets or clothing. DO NOT RUB AFFECTED EXTREMITY AND AVOID CHEMICAL HEAT PACKS.	X	X	X	X	
Refer to 555.43 PEDIATRIC PAIN MANAGEMENT as indicated.				X	