

SYMPTOM: Cardiac arrest patient that has not responded to resuscitation treatment/CPR in the field.

**Contact on-line medical control before termination of resuscitative efforts.**

Document online physicians name and time resuscitative efforts were discontinued.

Termination of resuscitative efforts may be considered in the following circumstances in consultation with online medical control:

1. Non-traumatic arrest
  - a. Patient is 18 years of age
  - b. Patient is in cardiac arrest upon the arrival of ALS
  - c. ALS resuscitation is administered on scene as appropriate to the presenting and persistent cardiac rhythm.
  - d. There is no return of spontaneous pulse and no evidence of neurological function.
  - e. There is no evidence or suspicion of hypothermia.
  - f. The EMS personnel involved in the patient's care all agree the termination of resuscitation is appropriate.
2. Traumatic arrest
  - a. Patient is at least 18 years of age.
  - b. Blunt trauma victim who if found apneic, pulseless and/or asystolic on an ECG or ECG cardiac monitor [ECG acquisition EMT-O; Interpretation INT-R) upon arrival of emergency medical services at the scene.
  - c. Victim of penetrating trauma found apneic and pulseless by EMS with no other signs of life, such as pupillary reflexes, spontaneous movement, response to pain and/or electrical activity on ECG, present.
  - d. All EMS personnel involved in the patient's care agree that the termination of resuscitation is appropriate.

Assessment

1. Pulse
2. Respirations
3. Neurologic status assessment
4. Cardiac activity
5. Quantitative capnography

Treatment and Interventions

1. Focus on continuous, quality CPR that is initiated as soon as possible.
2. Focus attention on the family and/or bystanders. Explain the rationale for termination.
3. Consider support for family members such as other family, friends, clergy, faith leaders, or chaplains.
4. In remote or wilderness situations, EMS providers should make every effort to contact online medical control. Resuscitation may be discontinued without online medical control when:
  - a. There has been no return of pulse despite greater than 30 minutes of CPR.
  - b. Transport to an emergency department will take more than 30 minutes.
  - c. EMS providers are exhausted and physically unable to continue the resuscitation.