

Santa Barbara County EMS County Wide Protocols

Policy 533-29

HYPOTHERMIA	
ADULT	PEDIATRIC - (14 years and under)
BLS Procedures	
 Gently move patient to warm environment and begin passive rewarming Minimize movement of extremities Attempt to maintain supine position Cut off wet clothing and cover patient, including head, with dry blankets Administer oxygen as indicated Refer to Policy 533-02: Airway Management If patient is altered, determine Blood Glucose Level (BGL) Refer to Policy 533-06: Altered Neurological Function 	 Gently move patient to warm environment and begin passive rewarming Minimize movement of extremities Attempt to maintain supine position Cut off wet clothing and cover patient, including head, with dry blankets Administer oxygen as indicated Refer to Policy 533-02: Airway Management If patient is altered, determine Blood Glucose Level (BGL) Refer to Policy 533-06: Altered Neurological Function
Monitor vital signs (VS) for 1 minute	Monitor vital signs (VS) for 1 minute
Acceptable Ranges for Severe Hypothermia Respiratory Rate Minimum of 4 breaths/minute Heart Rate Minimum of 20 beats/minute If VS are within the acceptable range for severe hypothermia • Do not initiate respiratory assistance or chest compressions. • Monitor VS every 5 minutes	Acceptable Ranges for Severe Hypothermia Respiratory Rate Minimum of 4 breaths/minute Heart Rate Minimum of 20 beats/minute If VS are within the acceptable range for severe hypothermia • Do not initiate respiratory assistance or chest compressions. • Monitor VS every 5 minutes
If VS are <u>not within</u> the acceptable range for severe hypothermia • Assist ventilations and/or initiate CAM	If VS are <u>not within</u> the acceptable range for severe hypothermia • Assist ventilations and/or initiate CAM
 Frostbite Wrap affected extremity in blankets or clothing DO NOT rub or otherwise attempt active rewarming 	Frostbite Wrap affected extremity in blankets or clothing DO NOT rub or otherwise attempt active rewarming
Expanded Scope	
Same as BLS	Same as BLS
ALS Prior to Base Hospital Contact	
 Determine Blood Glucose Level (BGL) if not done previously Vascular Access (if indicated) If administering fluid, avoid administering cold fluids Pain control Refer to Policy 533-03: Pain Control 	 Determine Blood Glucose Level (BGL) if not done previously Vascular Access (if indicated) If administering fluid, avoid administering cold fluids Pain control Refer to Policy 533-03: Pain Control
 If VS are not within the acceptable range for severe hypothermia Transport to the closest hospital Administer only one (1) round of medications & contact BHC prior to TCP. Refer to Policy 533-12 - Symptomatic Bradycardia Expedite transport (Code-3) if no shivering present o Indicates core temp below 90°F 	 If VS are <u>not within</u> the acceptable range for severe hypothermia Transport to the closest hospital Administer only one (1) round of medications & establish early BHC. ○ Refer to Policy 533-12 - Symptomatic Bradycardia Expedite transport (Code-3) if no shivering present
Base Hospital Phy	sician Orders Only
Consult with ED Physician for further treatment measures	Consult with ED Physician for further treatment measures

Additional Information

Last Reviewed/Revised: December 31, 2023
Next Review Date: December 31, 2025

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Adjust the transport unit climate to facilitate patient warming.

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