



Section: **Medical Operations General**
Subject: **AGE CATEGORY DEFINITIONS AND BASIC ALS TREATMENTS**
Section #: **300.01**
Issue Date: **March 21, 2011**
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1. Basic ALS Treatments
 - a. Basic ALS treatments are defined as:
 - i. Primary survey/initial assessment
 - ii. Secondary survey/focused history and physical exam
 - iii. Vital signs
 - iv. Oxygen therapy
 - v. EKG (12-Lead)
 - vi. Pulse Oximetry
 - vii. IV access
2. Age Category Definitions – This policy provides guidance when it is necessary to make a differentiation between neonatal, infant, and adult patients in selecting appropriate policies:
 - a. **Neonate:** Any patient < 28 days of age and/or < 5 kg (11 lbs) in body weight.
 - i. The difference between neonates and infants, for the purpose of these policies, is based on age.
 - ii. A neonate is in a physiologic transition from mechanisms used in-utero to those that are used after delivery and severance of the umbilical cord.
 - iii. Thus, a patient less than twenty eight (28) days old will be considered a neonate (State of Florida definition).
 - b. **Infant:** Any patient < 1 year of age and ≥ 28 days of age (also ≥ 5 kg body weight).
 - i. Infants have functional differences from older children that relate to their developing physiology and their poorly developed intellect.
 1. The ability to communicate and understand is extremely limited.
 2. This is a distinction based on age, not size.
 - c. **Pediatric:**
 - i. The term pediatric is used in these Policies as a collective term that includes neonates, infants, children, and adolescents.
 - ii. Pediatric Patient – Legal Standpoint: Any patient < 18 years of age.
 1. Exception: emancipated minors, pregnant minors, and/or married minors.
 - iii. Pediatric Patient – Medical Standpoint: Patients who weigh < 50 kg (110 lbs).
 1. Drug dosages for pediatric patients assume a body weight < 50 kg.
 - iv. Pediatric Patient – Trauma Standpoint: Any patient ≤ 15 years of age.
 1. Anatomical and physical characteristics of a person this age.
 - d. **Adult:**
 - i. Adult Patient – Legal Standpoint: Any patient ≥ 18 years of age.
 - ii. Adult Patient – Medical Standpoint: Any patient ≥ 50 kg (110 lbs).
 1. Drug dosages for adult patients assume a body weight ≥ 50 kg.
 - iii. Adult Patient – Trauma Standpoint: Any patient > 15 years of age.
 1. Anatomical and physical characteristics of a person this age.
3. For medical purposes differences between neonates, infants, and children may not appear in the protocols.
 - a. Without specific notations all these groups are treated similarly.
 - b. Age in these patients may still be an important factor in the history, influencing the probability of accidental ingestion of poisons or the occurrence of certain types of accidents.

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4. A more subtle distinction, from a medical perspective, is made between adolescents and adults.
 - a. Adolescents are nearly equal physiologically to adults apart from age and size.
 - b. Most significantly; drug dosages for adults assume a body size between 50 – 200 kg (110 – 440 lbs) and drug dosages for pediatric patients assume a body size < 50 kg (110 lbs).