

ALS DETERMINATION OF DEATH

Indications

Patient in cardiac arrest who does not meet criteria for BLS determination of death (DOD) and does not have a valid DNR order. **Excludes MCI incidents where triage principles preclude the initiation of CPR and circumstances where scene or bystander safety is threatened.**

- Apply leads and document rhythm in two leads for minimum of 1 minute
- DOD can be made prior to, or immediately after initiating resuscitation when:

Medical- ALL must be present

- Presenting rhythm is asystole
- Event was NOT witnessed
- Effective bystander CPR was NOT initiated
- No evidence of potentially reversible cause of arrest
- No AED or manual shock delivered

Trauma- ALL must be present

- Blunt, penetrating or profound multi-system trauma, or significant blood loss
- Pulseless and Apneic
- Absence of potentially reversible cause of arrest

If determination of death cannot be made

- Perform ALS resuscitation for 20 minutes on scene
- If ETCO₂ ≤20 mmHg and the rhythm is asystole or PEA, resuscitation may be discontinued and determination of death made

If determination of death still cannot be made

- If ETCO₂ >20 mmHg and the rhythm is asystole or PEA continue resuscitation for ten additional minutes (30 minutes total) at which point determination of death can be made
- **PHYSICIAN CONSULT** if ETCO₂ >20 mmHg after 30min of resuscitation

Does patient meet all above criteria?

Yes

Do not initiate resuscitation

No

Initiate resuscitation

📞 TRAUMA CENTER CONSULT for further care and destination decision

- If consult is not available, transport patient to the closest facility if there is the following:
 - Unmanageable airway
 - Uncontrolled external hemorrhage
 - CPR in progress (unless transporting to SRC for refractory V-Fib)

When patient meets criteria for declaration of death in the field:

- Notify the appropriate law enforcement agency and remain on the scene until released by law enforcement
- Complete a Field Determination of Death Form at scene and leave a copy with law enforcement or coroner, if applicable