

G005 LFD GENERAL GUIDELINES: FIELD PRONOUNCEMENT

Purpose

- A. To provide guidelines for resuscitation and field pronouncement of patients in cardiac arrest in the prehospital setting. EMS may transport any patient perceived to be viable, or if scene dynamics or public perception necessitates transport.

General Principles

- A. Agency policy determines base contact requirements for patients for whom resuscitation efforts are being withheld.
- B. Medical Arrest:
EMS providers should try their best to determine a patient's end-of-life wishes and honor them. Refer to Advanced Medical Directives protocol for discussion of advanced directives and decision making about appropriateness of performing or withholding resuscitation efforts.
 - a. Do not attempt resuscitation for patients with a "No CPR" directive based on the patient's wishes or compelling reasons to withhold resuscitation as covered in Advanced Medical Directives protocol.
 - b. Do not attempt resuscitation for patients with definite signs of death, such as dependent lividity, rigor mortis, decomposition.
- C. Traumatic Arrest:
 - 1. Do not attempt resuscitation if there is evidence of a non-survivable injury and no sign of life. Examples of non-survivable injuries include:
 - a. decapitation
 - b. evidence of massive head, chest, or abdominal trauma
 - c. massive burn with charring.
 - 2. Blunt trauma: consider field pronouncement if there are no signs of life. Signs of life include:
 - a. spontaneous movement
 - b. breathing
 - c. presence of a pulse
 - d. reactive pupils.
 - 3. Penetrating trauma: consider field pronouncement if there are no signs of life, and the arrest duration is suspected to be > 10 minutes.
 - 4. Exceptions to the above recommendations to consider field pronouncement include arrests with the following mechanisms/scenarios:
 - a. Hypothermic arrest
 - b. Drowning w/ hypothermia and submersion < 60 min
 - c. Lightning strike and electrocution
 - d. Avalanche victim
 - e. Pregnant patient with estimated gestational age \geq 20 weeks