

Cardiac Arrest (Non-Shockable)

The 2005 AHA guidelines emphasize the importance of effective uninterrupted CPR during cardiac arrest. The following points are applicable in the non-shockable cardiac arrest protocol:

- * Do not compromise CPR to obtain an advanced airway. Consider Blind Insertion Airway.
- * Once advanced airway is obtained, perform asynchronous CPR.
- * Ensure full chest recoil during CPR
- * Obtain IV/IO access at earliest opportunity

CRITERIA

1. Patient unresponsive, without pulse or respiration, and with asystole evident on ECG (check 2 leads).
2. Patients with rigor mortis, advanced lividity or injuries inconsistent with survival (e.g., decapitation) **are excluded**.
3. Determine DDNR status.
4. Consider reversible causes:
 - * Hypoxia
 - * Hyperkalemia or hypokalemia
 - * Preexisting acidosis
 - * Drug overdose
 - * Hypothermia
 - * Tension pneumothorax

PROTOCOL

- E I P** 1. Ensure adequate airway and oxygenation.
- I P** 2. Monitor cardiac status.
* If rhythm is unclear and possibly ventricular fibrillation, move to *Shockable* (page ALS-8).
- I P** 3. If no pulse is present, begin CPR.
I P * Ensure high quality CPR and effective compressions
- E I P** 4. Establish IV/IO access.
- I P** 5. Administer **Epinephrine IV/IO** Repeat every 3-5 minutes.
* **IV/IO: 1 mg 1:10,000**
- I P** 6. Administer **Atropine Sulfate 1 mg IV/IO** for Asystole or slow PEA rate (**up to 3mg**). Repeat every 3-5 minutes up to a total of 3 mg.



- I P** For arrest in **Renal Dialysis patients only** administer the above medications along with the following medications:

Calcium Chloride 1 gram IV/IO push followed by 40 mL IV flush, **Sodium Bicarbonate 1 mEq/kg** and repeat in 10 minutes if no change and medications are available.

- E I P** 7. Check pulse and rhythm after 2 mins of CPR. If rhythm changes - **GO TO APPROPRIATE PROTOCOL**:
* *Shockable* (page ALS-8).
* *Bradycardia* (page ALS-10).
* *Narrow-Complex Tachycardia* (page ALS-11).
* *Wide-Complex Tachycardia with pulse* (page ALS-12).