

FIELD TERMINATION OF RESUSCITATION EFFORTS PROTOCOL

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INDICATIONS

When a patient that is in cardiac arrest has failed to respond to Advanced Life Support, it may be decided to terminate the effort and not transport the patient to the hospital. When the paramedic determines that this option is appropriate, the following criteria must be met:

- a. The victims is 18 years or older
- b. The victim must be in asystole in two leads and have the absence of a pulse confirmed.
- c. The victim must not be in arrest due to hypothermia, or apparent drug overdose.
- d. The victim must have a properly placed advanced airway.
- e. The patient must have a patent intravenous access.
- f. At least three rounds of ACLS drugs have been administered.
- g. Medical control must be contacted - the physician must speak directly with the paramedic. Then the physician and paramedic must agree on the termination of efforts. The physician must give consent for the resuscitation effort to cease.

Until the coroner releases the body, or a physician has agreed to sign the death certificate, do not remove endotracheal tubes, IV'S, etc. If for any reason, the body will not be released (i.e. it will be Coroner's case.) Do not remove any equipment.

Resuscitation of the patient should not be terminated in the back of the medical transport unit.

EACH PATIENT SHOULD BE EVALUATED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS

WHEN IN DOUBT, CONTACT MEDICAL DIRECTION