

# Pediatric V-Fib/Pulseless V-Tach

For non-traumatic cardiac arrest in which any resuscitation is initiated, NOT dead on arrival

**History**

- Events leading to arrest
- Estimated downtime
- Prior resuscitation attempts
- Past medical history
- Medications
- Known terminal illness

**Signs and Symptoms**

- Pulseless
- Apneic

**Differential**

- Airway obstruction/respiratory disease
- Medical vs. trauma
- VF vs. pulseless VT
- Asystole
- PEA
- Primary cardiac event vs. respiratory arrest or drug overdose

 Enter from Cardiac Arrest

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>P</b>        | <b>Defibrillation</b>   |
|                 | <i>Use length-based tape; refer to dosing guide</i>   |
|                 | Resume chest compressions ( <b>15:2 ratio</b> )<br>1.5 inches for infants; 2 inches for children<br>Change compressors every 2 minutes<br>(Limit changes/pulse checks to < 5 seconds) |
| Establish IV/IO |   |

**AT ANY TIME**

Return of spontaneous circulation



Go to Post Resuscitation

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>P</b>  | <b>Defibrillation</b>   |
|   | <i>Use measuring tape; refer to dosing guide</i>  |
|   | Resume chest compressions ( <b>15:2 ratio</b> )<br>1.5 inches for infants; 2 inches for children<br>Change compressors every 2 minutes<br>(Limit changes/pulse checks to < 5 seconds) |
| <b>Epinephrine (1:10,000)</b>                       |   |
| <i>Use length-based tape; refer to dosing guide</i> |   |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>P</b>   | <b>Defibrillation</b>   |
|  | <i>Use measuring tape; refer to dosing guide</i>  |
|  | Resume chest compressions ( <b>15:2 ratio</b> )<br>1.5 inches for infants; 2 inches for children<br>Change compressors every 2 minutes<br>(Limit changes/pulse checks to < 5 seconds) |
| <b>If V-Fib/ Pulseless V-Tach is refractory after 3 shocks</b>         |   |
| Continue high performance CPR and give medications during compressions |   |
| <b>Lidocaine</b>   |   |
| <i>Use length-based tape; refer to dosing guide</i>                    |   |

Persistent V-Fib/V-Tach

Yes

 Aystole/PEA

No

Return of spontaneous circulation?

No

Yes

 Post Resuscitation

**Notify receiving facility.**  
**Consider Base Hospital for medical direction**

Pediatric Cardiac Arrest Treatment Protocols



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## Pearls

- Airway is a more important intervention in pediatric arrests. This should be accomplished quickly with a BVM, airway adjunct, and appropriately sized mask. Patient survival is often dependent on proper ventilation and oxygenation.
- Efforts should be directed at high quality chest compressions with limited interruptions.
- Use appropriately sized pediatric BVM with EtCO<sub>2</sub>.
- Do not delay chest compressions while applying any device or intervention.
- Use a metronome during chest compression to ensure proper rate.
- Provide resuscitative efforts for 30 minutes to maximize chance of ROSC.
- If resuscitative efforts do not attain ROSC, consider cessation of efforts per Policy 507 – Determining Death.
- Resuscitation is based on proper planning and organized execution. Procedures require space and patient access. Make room to work. Utilize a team focused approach assigning responders to predetermined tasks.
- Reassess airway and document EtCO<sub>2</sub> frequently.
- Defibrillation vests should be removed by EMS personnel before compressions, but do not cut vests. Once removed, disengage battery to prevent alarming.

