

# CARDIAC EMERGENCIES

Revised 3/1/2000

## c-3 CARDIAC ARREST

### **PRIORITIES:**

- ABCs
- Assure an advanced life support response.
- Initiate high quality CPR per most current ECC guidelines.
- Perform 2 minutes of continuous CPR prior to reassessing for pulse.
- Obtain age, sex and weight
- Attempt to estimate time patient last seen breathing, down time with CPR

### **Cardiopulmonary Arrest – Basic Therapy**

*No spontaneous pulse or respirations, non-traumatic setting.*

1. Initiate CPR per most current ECC guidelines. If no bystander CPR, complete 2 minutes of CPR at 100 compressions/minute prior to first defibrillation. High quality BLS CPR provides the patient with the most benefit and optimizes the conditions for successful defibrillation. Care should be organized to minimize interruptions in CPR.
  - Maintain airway with manual airway techniques;
  - Insert oropharyngeal/nasopharyngeal airway and ventilate with a Bag-Valve-Mask.
2. Consider:
  - Victims suffering from hypothermia often look dead when they are still salvageable;
  - All near drowning victims should be resuscitated. People who have been submerged in cold water for a long time may be salvageable;
  - DNR – Follow Solano County Policy #6130.

### **Cardiopulmonary Arrest – EMT-D Protocol (Automated Defibrillator)**

1. Continue CPR for a minimum 2 minutes while defibrillator is being retrieved;
2. Remove patient's clothing to expose the chest to the waist and continue CPR while this is being done;
3. Activate the defibrillator unit, ensure electrodes are placed appropriately. Left side mid-chest below the left under arm and right upper chest just below the right collarbone (or other lead placement as required by the defibrillator);
4. Have the defibrillator evaluate the ECG rhythm. If shock advised, shock the patient a single time and resume CPR for a minimum of 2 minutes;
5. Repeat step 4 every 2 minutes until ALS providers assume responsibility for the patient's care.

### **SPECIAL NOTE (semi-automatic defibrillator):**

**DO NOT defibrillate confirmed asystole or other pulseless organized rhythms.**