

Special Procedures

S-11 Ventricular Assist Device (VAD)

**THIS PROTOCOL IS TO BE USED FOR THE TREATMENT OF VAD RELATED COMPLAINTS ONLY.
Treat all other complaints per Solano County EMS policy and protocol.**

When treating a VAD patient remember the following:

- A patient with a VAD may NOT have a palpable pulse and a lower blood pressure than a normal patient.
- The preferred method of obtaining a blood pressure is by palpation or auscultation.
- A pulse oximetry reading may not be obtainable. A pulse oximetry reading of 60% is not uncommon.
- **Do NOT perform chest compressions on a patient with a VAD that is in cardiac arrest.** For patients in cardiac arrest manage the airway, use appropriate ACLS medications, and defibrillate/cardiovert as needed per Solano County Treatment Protocols.
- Do NOT pull on the percutaneous lead also known as the driveline or lifeline. This lead runs from the control box into the patient's body to the pump. If pulled, this line could be damaged causing the VAD to fail.

Treatment of a VAD Patient

1. Assess the patient's airway and intervene per Solano EMS policy/protocol.
2. Assess vital signs.
3. Cardiac monitor.
4. Auscultate for heart sounds to determine if the device is functioning and for the type of device.
NOTE: If it is a continuous flow device, a "whirling" sound should be heard.
5. Look for the controller that is usually found around the waist of the patient to identify the color tag and what type of device.
6. Contact the device support number.
7. Assess the device for any alarms.
8. Intervene appropriately based on the type of alarm and tag per the direction of the support number or caregiver.
9. Start a large bore IV.
10. Transport the significant other/caregiver, if possible, to assist with operation of the device.
11. Bring all of the VAD related equipment with the patient during transport.

Destination of a VAD Patient

- Transport the patient to the VAD Center where the device was implanted (preferred) or the closest VAD Center.
- If direction is needed for the device, contact the device support number.
- Refer to the list of VAD Program Centers for Destination.
- Solano County Paramedics may also contact Base Hospital Physician for direction if patient condition is critical.
- **For Sacramento Area VAD patients:** The patient should have an information card with contact numbers and implantation hospital.

DISRUPTED COMMUNICATIONS

In the event of a "disrupted communications" situation, Solano County Paramedics may utilize all portions of this treatment protocol without Base Hospital Contact as needed to stabilize an immediate patient.

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VAD Centers

All addresses are for the primary Emergency Departments for those facilities.
Contact numbers provided are direct lines to the VAD Programs.

Always contact the receiving facility's Emergency Department with patient report.

SACRAMENTO AREA VAD CENTERS

Mercy Hospitals Sacramento

Per the VAD Program, the patient will direct which Mercy Hospital to be transported to.

VAD Program 24 Hour Line: 916-842-7373

VAD Program Pager: 916-535-3115

Supported Devices: Heartmate II LVAD

Sutter Memorial Hospital

5151 F Street
Sacramento, CA 95819

Heart Failure Clinic: 916-733-8133 OR
1-800-556-8133

Clinic open Monday – Friday 08:00 – 17:00

After Hours: Call will go to an answering service

Supported Devices: Heartmate II LVAD

UC Davis Medical Center

2315 Stockton Blvd
Sacramento, CA 95817

VAD Program 24 Hour Line: 916-734-2020

Supported Devices: Heartmate II LVAD

SAN FRANCISCO AND BAY AREA VAD CENTERS

California Pacific Medical Center

2333 Buchanan Street
San Francisco, CA 94115

Heart Failure Program: 415-600-1050

Clinic open Monday – Friday 08:30 – 17:00

After Hours Answering Service: 415-487-8480

Supported Devices: Heartmate II LVAD

UC San Francisco Medical Center

505 Parnassus Ave
San Francisco, CA 94113

VAD Program 24 Hour Pager: 415-443-5823

Heart Failure Program: 415-353-1498

Supported Devices: Heartmate II LVAD

Stanford Medical Center

900 Quarry Road Extension
Stanford, CA 94304

VAD Coordinators: 650-498-9969 OR 650-725-8071

VAD Program 24 Hour Line: 650-723-6661 Pager ID 12502

Supported Devices: Heartmate II LVAD

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