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Section 5-200

Purpose

Prehospital ultrasound technology provides advanced life support agencies with a non-invasive modality to identify cardiac standstill. The ultrasound will confirm the absence of cardiac activity in patients where termination of resuscitation is being considered, providing an additional layer of confirmation.

Approved Devices

1. Any ultrasound device approved by the MCA.

Indications

1. Asystole
2. Pulseless Electrical Activity (PEA)

Procedure

1. **Initial Assessment:**
    a. Initiate standard ALS protocols including confirmation of asystole in all 3 leads or identification of PEA.
    b. Ensure the patient has received 30 minutes of ALS treatment.
2. **Ultrasound Assessment:**
    a. Use an approved ultrasound device to obtain a subcostal or parasternal long-axis view of the heart.
    b. Place the ultrasound probe on the patient's chest to assess cardiac activity.
3. **Data Recording:**
    a. Record a ten-second video showing the presence or absence of cardiac activity.
    b. Save the video to a HIPAA-compliant cloud or attach it to the Patient's PCR.

Contraindications

1. None

Complications or Concerns

1. Contact Medical Control for any issues or complications encountered during the procedure.

Documentation

1. When ultrasound is utilized to confirm cardiac standstill, ultrasound procedure must be documented in the patient care record.
2. The following elements must be included in the narrative portion of the patient care record:
    a. Ultrasound View: Indicate the specific view used (e.g., subxiphoid, parasternal).

b. Chamber Identification: Specify which heart chambers were identifiable during the scan (e.g., left ventricle, right atrium).
c. Video Capture: Document whether the video capture was successful. If unsuccessful, note any factors that may have contributed (e.g., patient positioning, equipment limitations).
d. Cardiac Status: Indicate if the heart was in cardiac standstill or perfusing.