



**REGION 11  
CHICAGO EMS SYSTEM  
POLICY**

Title: Termination of Resuscitation
Section: Patient Care
Approved: EMS Medical Directors Consortium
Effective: December 1, 2022

## **TERMINATION OF RESUSCITATION**

I. Termination of Resuscitation may be considered in the following circumstances:

- A. Adult ( $\geq 18$  years of age) patient in cardiac arrest (unresponsive, pulseless, apneic)
    - 1. Excludes traumatic arrest, possible hypothermia, and pregnant patients.
    - 2. No other reversible cause of cardiac arrest identified.
    - 3. No return of spontaneous circulation has been achieved after at least 20 minutes of prehospital resuscitation as per Cardiac Arrest Management (ICCA) Protocol – BLS/ALS.
  - B. Initial rhythm is asystole or pulseless electrical activity (PEA).
    - 1. Confirmed in two different leads.
    - 2. For patients in PEA, bradycardic rhythms with a wide QRS complex are more consistent with terminal cardiac rhythms. Faster, narrow QRS complex rhythms may indicate ROSC.
  - C. IV or IO access is established.
    - 1. Epinephrine 1 mg IV every 5 minutes.
    - 2. 3 total doses of Epinephrine have been administered.
  - D. Advanced airway established.
    - 1. Supraglottic airway or endotracheal tube.
  - E. End Tidal CO<sub>2</sub> (ETCO<sub>2</sub>) capnography attached with number and waveform reading.
    - 1. ETCO<sub>2</sub> values persistently less than 10 mmHg or decreasing (downward trend) of more than 25% despite resuscitation indicate a poor prognosis.
- II. If all of the above criteria are met:
- A. Contact Medical Control
  - B. Request termination of resuscitation from ECP or ECRN.
  - C. If order for termination approved, terminate resuscitation
  - D. If order for termination not approved, continue resuscitation or plan for transport as per



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discussion with ECP or ECRN.

- III. If the order for termination is approved and the deceased is in ***a home or private residence***:
- A. Notify family members of death and provide grief counseling as appropriate per Death Notification Procedure – BLS/ALS, using the GRIEV\_ING method.
  - B. Contact Chicago Police Department (if not already present on scene).
  - C. Give relevant information to the police officer on scene.
  - D. Police will assume custody of body and arrange body aftercare with either the Cook County Medical Examiner or with the family and a private funeral home.
- IV. If the order for termination is approved and the deceased is in ***a public place or unsafe scene, CPD should be called to take custody of the body***. *In the rare circumstance where* transport is needed, transport the patient to the closest comprehensive emergency department. The base station should notify the receiving hospital that they are receiving a patient whose resuscitation was terminated in the field.
- V. If the order for termination is approved and the deceased is ***in a healthcare facility*** (i.e. nursing home, hospice, rehabilitation hospital), no transport is required and body aftercare will be assumed by the facility.