



ORANGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
BASE HOSPITAL TREATMENT GUIDELINES
NON-FATAL DROWNING (ADULT/ADOLESCENT)

#: BH-E-15
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Date: 04/01/2017

BASE GUIDELINES

1. Determine ALS Standing Order treatments/procedures rendered prior to base hospital contact. Use ALS standing order as guidelines for treatments/procedures not initiated prior to base hospital contact.
2. If mechanism of history is unclear, err on the side of transport to a Trauma Center

ALS STANDING ORDER

1. Spinal motion restriction if diving or shore-break accident.
2. Pulse oximetry; if oxygen saturation less than 95%:
 - ▶ *Oxygen, high-flow by mask or nasal cannula at 6 l/min flow rate as tolerated.*
3. Treat cardiac arrest same as SO-C-10 (Cardiac Cardiopulmonary Arrest).
4. Monitor cardiac rhythm and document with rhythm strip:
 - ▶ For bradycardia, clear airway and assist ventilation with bag-valve-mask using high-flow oxygen.
5. For wheezing:
 - ▶ *Albuterol, Continuous nebulization of 6 mL (5 mg) concentration as tolerated.*
6. For conscious and continued respiratory distress after clearing airway (by suction or patient coughing):
 - ▶ *Apply CPAP as tolerated; guard against high risk for vomiting.*
7. If unconscious or unable to protect airway:
 - ▶ *Advanced airway and confirm tube placement.*
8. ALS escort to nearest appropriate ERC; contact Base Hospital for suspected spinal injury/trauma or as needed.

Approved:

Review Dates: 11/16
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