



ORANGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Prehospital Standing Orders / Treatment Guidelines

BRIEF RESOLVED UNEXPLAINED EVENT (BRUE)

#: P-005

Page: 1 of 3

Orig. Date: 1/2004

Revised: 10/01/2026

Notes/Definitions

- Brief Resolved Unexplained Event (BRUE) is a clinical presentation in infants under one year old characterized by a sudden, brief, and now-resolved episode involving:
 - Breathing change (absent, decreased, or irregular)
 - Color change (central cyanosis or pallor)
 - Marked change in muscle tone (hypo or hypertonia)
 - Altered level of responsiveness
 - Unexplained choking or gagging

Base Hospital Contact Required

BLS Interventions

- Refer to OCEMS General BLS Standing Orders SO-BLS.
- Ensure proper positioning for adequate ventilation and suction as needed.

ALS Interventions

- Assess Pediatric Assessment Triangle (PAT)
 - General appearance: tone, interactiveness, consolability, look/gaze, speech/cry
 - Work of breathing: retractions, nasal flaring, abnormal airway sounds, positioning
 - Circulation to skin: pallor, mottling, cyanosis
- Apply capnography (EtCO₂) if applicable and as tolerated.
 - Maintain EtCO₂ between 35 and 45 mmHg
 - If EtCO₂ > 50: ensure proper positioning for adequate ventilation and suction as needed.
 - If no improvement, initiate BVM.
- Obtain the patient's estimated weight utilizing an appropriate length-based resuscitation tape or age-based system.
- Initiate cardiac monitor. Interpret, monitor, and document rhythm.
- Assess GCS. Use pediatric GCS for patients aged ≤ 2 years (refer to B-002).
- Obtain IV / IO access if applicable.
- If hypotensive (refer to Vital Sign table below), administer:
 - **Normal Saline 20 mL / kg IV / IO** (maximum dose 250 mL)
 - For continued hypotension, may repeat the same dose twice for total of three boluses.
- If blood glucose < 60, administer one of the following:
 - **Breastfeed**, if tolerated and airway reflexes are intact
 - **Oral glucose**, if tolerated and airway reflexes are intact

Approved:

Review Date: 9/2016; 8/2026

Final Date for Implementation: 4/01/2027



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- ▶ **Glucagon 0.5 mg IM** - once
- ▶ **10% Dextrose 5 mL / kg IV / IO** (maximum dose 250 mL)

Transport Considerations

- **Base Hospital Contact** required (CCERC preferred).
- ALS escort to nearest open CCERC (or as directed by Base Hospital).

Additional Considerations

- Consider and follow appropriate Standing Order / Treatment Guideline for the following conditions associated with BRUE symptoms if applicable:
 - Cardiac arrhythmias
 - Congenital vascular anomalies
 - Seizure disorders
 - Non-accidental trauma / child abuse
 - RSV or respiratory tract infections / obstructions
 - Metabolic disorders
 - Breath holding spells
 - Infections
 - GERD

Pediatric Vital Signs by Age

Age	Pulse	Systolic Blood Pressure	Respiratory Rate
Neonate (0-30 days)	100-180	> 60	30-60
Infant (31 days - < 1 yr)	100-160	> 60	30-60
Toddler (1 yr - < 3 yrs)	90-150	> 70	24-40
Pre-school (3 yrs - < 5 yrs)	80-140	> 75	22-34
School Aged (5 yrs - < 10 yrs)	70-120	> 80	18-30
Teen (≥ 10 yrs)	60-100	> 90	12-16

Base Hospital Considerations

- High risk criteria if parent considers AMA:
 - Less than 2 months of age
 - History of prematurity (less than or equal to 32 weeks gestation)
 - More than one BRUE, now or in the past
 - Event duration greater than 1 minute
 - CPR or resuscitation by caregivers or trained rescuers

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Shaikh MD

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Cross References:

SO-BLS General BLS Standing Orders

BLS Procedure B-001 (Pediatric Assessment Triangle)

BLS Procedure B-002 (Glasgow Coma Scale Score)

I-20 Pediatric Medication Volume Dose by Weight

P-065 Altered Mental Status - Pediatric

SO-P-080 Shock (Symptomatic Hypotension) - Pediatric

Approved:

Shaikh MD

Review Date: 9/2016; 8/2026
Final Date for Implementation: 4/01/2027