

Subject: Drowning/Near Drowning Treatment Policy

I. Definition	
A. Drowning: Cardiac arrest as a result of liquid immersion.	
B. Near drowning: Primary respiratory impairment due to liquid submersion.	
II. Basic Life Support - All Providers	
A. Provide General Medical Care.	
B. Consider spinal motion restriction indicated per <i>procedure guideline Draft Spinal Motion Restriction</i> .	
C. Airway and respiratory management is a priority.	
1. Drowning:	
a. Treat as cardiopulmonary arrest per <i>procedure guideline Draft Cardiac Arrest Management</i> .	
2. Near Drowning:	
a. Anticipate vomiting.	
b. Suction as indicated.	
c. Remove wet clothing.	
d. If dyspnea persists despite suctioning and oxygen, consider <i>CPAP</i> per <i>procedure guideline Draft CPAP</i> .	
e. All near drowning patients require advanced life support assessment.	
D. Provide passive warming measures as indicated.	
III. Advanced Life Support	
A. Consider CO <sub>2</sub> monitoring.	
IV. Special Considerations	
A. Near drowning patients are at risk for decompensation for up to 24 hours after the incident.	
B. All near drowning patients require advance life support assessment.	
V. Base Orders	
A. Near drowning patients refusing transport should have Base Hospital consult prior to signing against medical advice.	
VI. Contraindications	
A. None.	
VII. Cross Reference	
A. General Medical Care	Policy No. Draft
B. CPAP	Policy No. Draft
C. Cardiac Arrest Management	Policy No. Draft
D. Spinal Motion Restriction	Policy No. Draft