

LA County Prehospital Care Policy Ref. No. 814, Determination/Pronouncement of Death in the Field

Absence of respiration, cardiac activity and neurological reflexes

Meets Ref. No. 814, Section I Criteria

Does Not Meet Ref. No. 814, Section I Criteria

If criteria is rigor mortis or post-mortem lividity

Assess patient per policy to include:
 1. Open airway, assess resp. status for 30 sec.
 2. Auscultate/palpate pulse for 60 sec.
 3. Check response to pupils and pain

Signs of life present

Initiate BLS, establish base contact or follow SFTP

Patient age \geq 14 years

Immediately begin BLS measures and establish base contact

No signs of life

** Initiate BLS while assessing for one or more of the following:
 1. Valid DNR, AHCD w/DNR instructions
 2. Valid AHCD w/agent requesting DNR
 3. Immediate family present at scene requesting no resuscitation

Patient Determined to be Dead Base Contact Not Required

Asystole

PEA
VF/Pulseless VT

**The estimated time of collapse to bystander CPR or EMS BLS is >10 minutes

Continue BLS, initiate ALS and establish base contact

Terminate BLS

Continue resuscitation on scene

Patients without ROSC in the field should be considered candidates for pronouncement

** If the family or prehospital personnel object to/disagree with terminating or withholding resuscitation, or for purposes of scene safety continue BLS resuscitation and establish base contact