MEDICAL CONTROL GUIDELINE: PERFUSION STATUS

PRINCIPLES:

1. Perfusion status is determined by a combination of parameters that includes heart rate, blood pressure, tissue color and mentation. No one parameter alone can be used to determine perfusion status.

2. Adequate perfusion is defined as adequate circulation of blood through organs and tissues, manifested by normal pulse, tissue color, level of consciousness and blood pressure.

3. Poor perfusion is defined as inadequate circulation of blood through organs and tissues manifested by vital sign abnormalities and/or signs and symptoms of organ dysfunction.

4. Base hospital contact should be initiated on patients who are hypotensive and/or those who have poor perfusion.

GUIDELINES:

1. EMS providers should evaluate for the following signs and use clinical judgement to determine poor perfusion status, which may include but not limited to:

    a. Adult systolic blood pressure (SBP) less than 90mmHg, pediatric SBP less than 70mmHg

    b. Bradycardia, tachycardia and/or poor pulse quality (weak/thready)

    c. Altered mental status (including anxiety, restlessness, lethargy, combative behavior)

    d. Delayed capillary refill time (greater than 2 seconds) and/or changes in tissue color including pallor, cyanosis or mottling