

Cold Emergencies

BLS Procedures

Gently move patient to warm environment and begin passive warming

Increase ambulance cabin heat, if applicable

Remove wet clothing and cover patient, including head, with dry blankets

Administer oxygen as indicated

If patient is altered, determine blood glucose level

If less than 60 mg/dl refer to Policy 705.03

Monitor vital signs for 1 minute. If vital signs are within the acceptable range for severe hypothermia, do not initiate respiratory assistance or chest compressions

- Acceptable range for severe hypothermia:
 - Respiratory Rate: at least 4 breaths per minute
 - Heart rate: at least 20 beats per minute
- Expedite transport if no shivering (indicates core temp below 90°)

ALS Prior to Base Hospital Contact

If patient is altered, determine blood glucose if not already performed by BLS personnel or post oral glucose administration

If less than 60 mg/dl, refer to Policy 705.03

IV/IO access (if needed for medication or fluid administration)

- If administering fluid, avoid administering cold fluids.

Base Hospital Orders only

Consult with ED Physician for further treatment measures