

Cold Emergencies

BLS Procedures

- Gently move patient to warm environment and begin passive warming
- Minimize movement of extremities
- Attempt to maintain supine position
- Increase ambulance cabin heat, if applicable
- *Cut off* wet clothing and cover patient, including head, with dry blankets
- Administer oxygen as indicated
- 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 Standing Orders

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

Effective Date: July 1, 2023
Next Review Date: April 30, 2025

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VCEMS Medical Director