

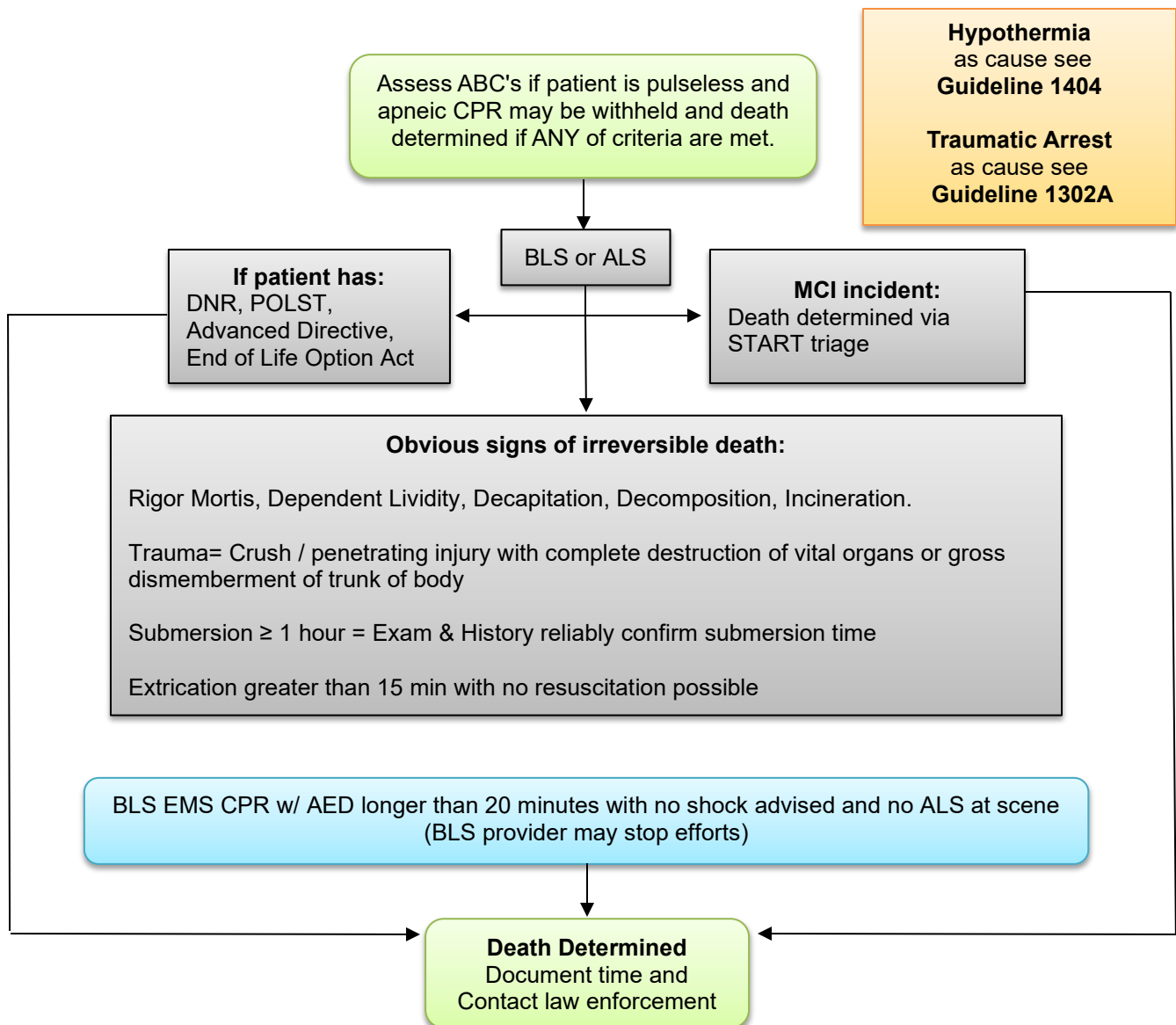
NOR-CAL EMS	1108	Medical Determination of Death
Nor-Cal EMS Policy & Procedure Manual		Treatment Guidelines
Effective Date: 05/01/2025		Next Revision: 05/01/2028
Approval: Jeffrey Kepple MD – MEDICAL DIRECTOR		SIGNATURE ON FILE

Purpose

To establish criteria for determination of death by prehospital personnel.

Policy

Prehospital providers do not pronounce death but rather determine death based on pre-determined criteria outlined below. An assessment by ALS personnel and consultation with the Base Hospital Physician is required for determination of death not covered by this Policy.



Hypothermia
as cause see
Guideline 1404

Traumatic Arrest
as cause see
Guideline 1302A

Family interaction

DNR Not present- Resuscitation maybe withheld or stopped if family who is present and can be identified as an immediate family member or spouse and with full agreement of any other persons who are present at scene, requests no resuscitation.

Any objection or disagreement by family regarding terminating or withholding resuscitative effort- BLS efforts including CPR/AED shall continue or begin immediately and Physician contact should then be made for further direction.

ALS ONLY

For Presumed MEDICAL Arrest:

All **MUST** be present-

ECG= Asystole
Event not witnessed
Effective bystander CPR not initiated
Presumed downtime greater than 20 minutes
Absence of potentially reversible cause
No shocks delivered PTA

Death Determined

Document time and
Contact law enforcement

If Determination of Death cannot be made:

Perform ALS resuscitation for 20 minutes:
See Treatment Guidelines: 1101/1102

After 20 minutes of ALS resuscitation ROSC has not been obtained:

Resuscitation maybe discontinued with: Asystole or PEA
and
 $\text{ETCO}_2 \leq 10\text{mm/Hg}$

If V-Fib / V-Tach or $\text{ETCO}_2 \geq 10\text{mm/Hg}$

Perform ALS resuscitation for an additional 10 minutes (30 min Total):

At which point resuscitation may be discontinued and determination of death made if ROSC has not occurred and ETCO_2 is less than 10mm/Hg.

Physician Consult Required

- Evidence exists that resuscitative efforts are not desired or appropriate and above criteria is not met.
- $\text{ETCO}_2 > 10\text{mm/Hg}$ after 30 minutes of resuscitation efforts
- **Do not transport with CPR in progress-** allowed only by Physician contact or if Hypothermia exists (See 1404)