

Pulseless Electrical Activity (PEA)

History

- **SAMPLE**
- Medications
- Events leading to arrest
- End stage renal disease
- Estimated downtime
- Suspected hypothermia
- Suspected overdose
- Tricyclics
- Digitalis
- Beta blockers
- Calcium channel blockers
- Advanced Directives

Signs and Symptoms

- Pulseless
- Apneic
- Electrical activity on ECG
- No heart tones on auscultation or doppler

Differential

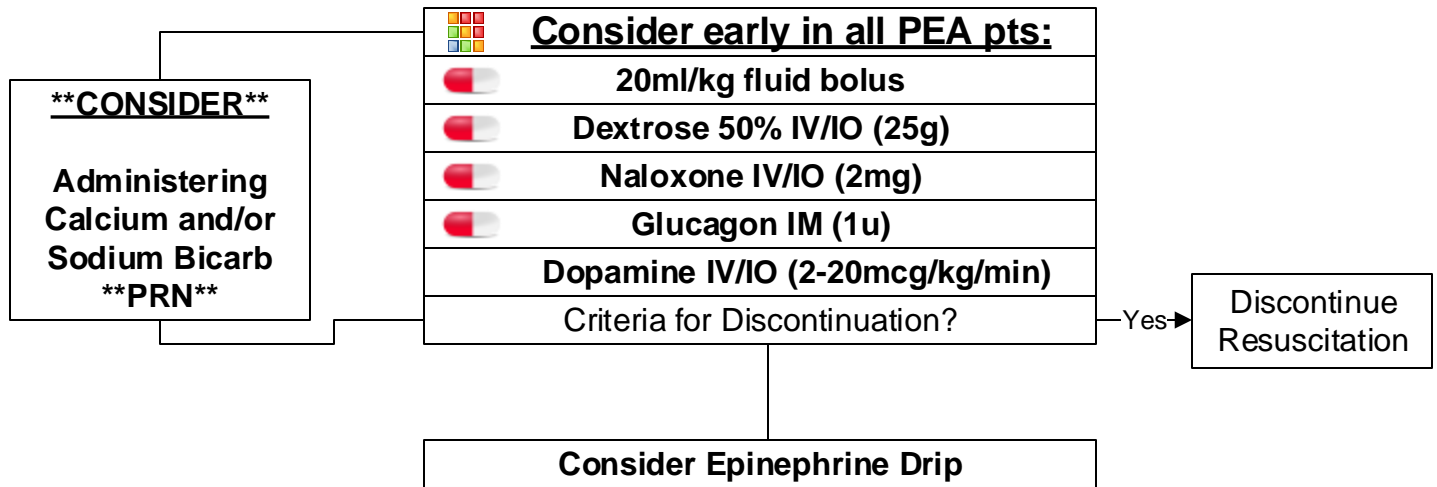
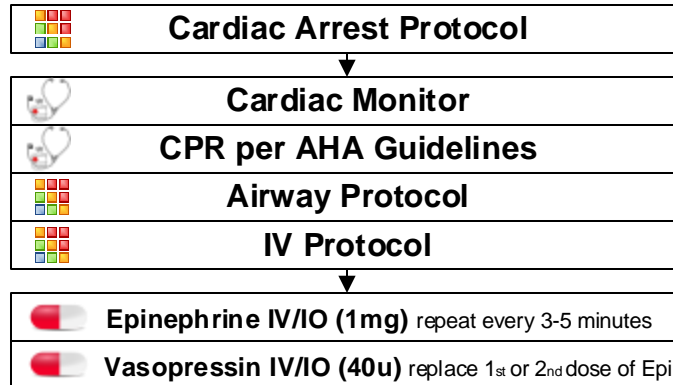
- Hypovolemia (Trauma, AAA, other)
- Cardiac tamponade
- Hypothermia
- Drug overdose (Tricyclics, Digitalis, Beta blockers, Calcium channel blockers)
- Massive myocardial infarction
- Hypoxia
- Tension pneumothorax
- Pulmonary embolus
- Acidosis
- Hyperkalemia

AT ANY TIME

Return of Spontaneous Circulation



Go to Post Resuscitation Protocol



Pearls

- **Recommended Exam: Mental Status**
- Consider each possible cause listed in the differential: Survival is based on identifying and correcting the cause!
- Discussion with Medical Control can be a valuable tool in developing a differential diagnosis and identifying possible treatment options.