

Ventricular Fibrillation Pulseless Vent. Tachycardia

History

- Estimated down time
- **SAMPLE**
- Medications
- Events leading to arrest
- Renal failure / dialysis
- DNR or living will

Signs and Symptoms


- Unresponsive, apneic, pulseless
- Ventricular fibrillation or ventricular tachycardia on ECG

Differential

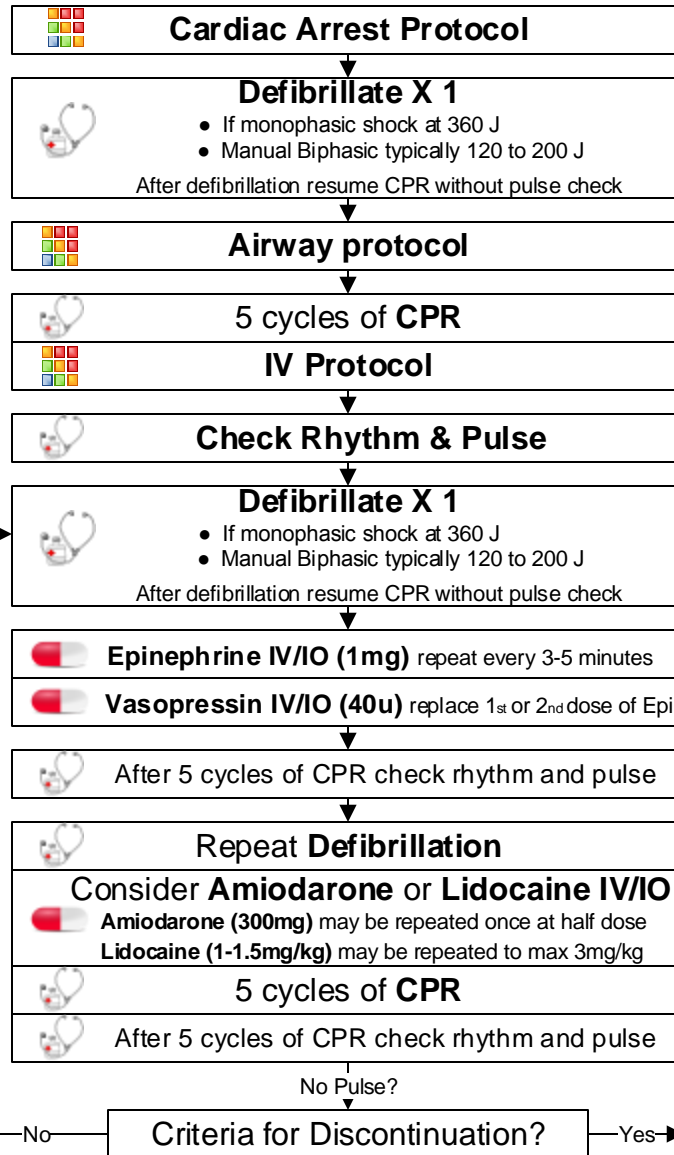
- **Asystole**
- **Artifact / Device failure**
- **Cardiac**
- **Endocrine / Metabolic**
- **Drugs**
- **Pulmonary**

AT ANY TIME

Rhythm Changes to
Nonshockable
Rhythm



Go to appropriate
protocol



AT ANY TIME

Return of
Spontaneous
Circulation



Go to
Post Resuscitation
Protocol

Pearls

- **Recommended Exam: Mental Status**
- Consider Calcium and Sodium Bicarbonate if hyperkalemia is suspected (renal failure, dialysis).
- **Treatment priorities are: uninterrupted chest compressions, defibrillation, then IV access and airway control.**
- Polymorphic V-Tach (Torsades de Pointes) may benefit from administration of Magnesium Sulfate if available.
- Do not stop CPR to check for placement of ET tube or to give medicines.
- Effective CPR and prompt defibrillation are the keys to successful resuscitation.