

Monterey County EMS System Policy



Protocol Number: E-4
Effective Date: January 1, 2012
Review Date: June 30, 2016

HYPOTHERMIA

BLS CARE

Routine medical care.

Remove patient from cold environment. Avoid rough handling.

Remove wet clothing. Dry the patient and cover with dry blankets.

Begin CPR if no pulse is found and signs of lifelessness are present. Limit defibrillation by AED to one shock only for the patient with profound hypothermia.

Warming measures. Consider the use of warm blankets. Consider chemical hot packs for mild hypothermia. Take precautions to prevent burns.

ALS CARE

Routine medical care.

CPR if no pulse is found and signs of lifelessness are present. Utilize appropriate Cardiac Arrest protocol.

Warming measures to include warmed IV fluids.

Early transport.

NOTE:

For profound hypothermia, limit defibrillation attempts to one shock. Limit drug administration to one round based on EKG rhythm and appropriate cardiac arrest protocol.

Profound hypothermia is defined as a core temperature of 86 degrees or less.