

Overview of RN-Initiated Emergency Cardiac Care

Nurses working in Areas Using Cardiac Monitoring, Defibrillation and Emergency Cardiac Drugs

ACLS/PALS certification, or similar, recommended



No signs of life?

- Immediate CPR and early defibrillation
- No MD/NP order required to use manual defibrillator or to administer epinephrine and amiodarone/lidocaine as per ACLS/PALS guidelines



Signs of life?

- No MD/NP order required to give Atropine for symptomatic bradycardia as per ACLS/PALS guidelines
- Assess for and treat hypovolemia (IV fluid) and hypoxia
- MD/NP order required for pacing/cardioversion



Consider adjuncts

- Consider supraglottic airways
- Consider interosseous access devices, if unable to establish IV access



Communicate

- Document assessments, interventions and patient responses
- Debrief with Team
- Inform and support patient and family



For full text refer to Emergency Cardiac Care Decision Support Tool #2

For more, refer to the Heart and Stroke Foundation CPR guidelines

Please refer to agency-specific guidelines

