



County of San Diego

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August 2, 2023

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO PREHOSPITAL EXTRACORPOREAL CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION (ECPR) PILOT PROGRAM: PROTOCOL CLARIFICATIONS

The County of San Diego Prehospital ECPR Pilot Program went live on July 1, 2023. Our 30-day Program evaluation during the July 27 San Diego Resuscitation Consortium meeting identified several questions from the field. As part of our quality improvement process, we developed the following [protocol clarifications](#):

- Immediately after identification of an ECPR candidate, make base contact and begin your report to the MICN by stating: **“We have an ECPR Code”**
- A “witnessed” cardiac arrest is one that is seen or heard by another person, for example:
 - Family member hears a “thud” in another room
 - Patient is found by family or bystanders with agonal respirations
- [“A pulseless shockable rhythm and 2 defibrillation attempts”](#) *at any point during the resuscitation* qualifies the patient for ECPR inclusion
 - A non-shockable initial rhythm (e.g., PEA, asystole) is not an exclusion criteria
- ECPR is a time-critical intervention: **“Get off scene in 15”**
 - Anticipate ECPR inclusion with first shock
 - Patients should be transported immediately after the second shock; do not wait!
 - Goal is 15 minutes or less on scene
- A patient remains an ECPR candidate even if ROSC is achieved during resuscitation
 - Continue transport to ECPR Receiving Center, which may require bypassing a closer hospital
- Clearly document the patient is an ECPR candidate in the PCR (BHR for MICNs)

Please note these protocol clarifications as you continue to identify and care for ECPR-eligible patients. We appreciate your participation in this lifesaving program.

Sincerely,

Kristi L. Koenig, MD, FACEP, FIFEM, FAEMS, Medical Director
San Diego County Emergency Medical Services Office
San Diego County Fire

cc: Andrew Parr, EMS Administrator
Jeff Collins, Director

Attachments: ECPR Pilot Program Protocol Clarifications, S-127A ECPR Decision Algorithm

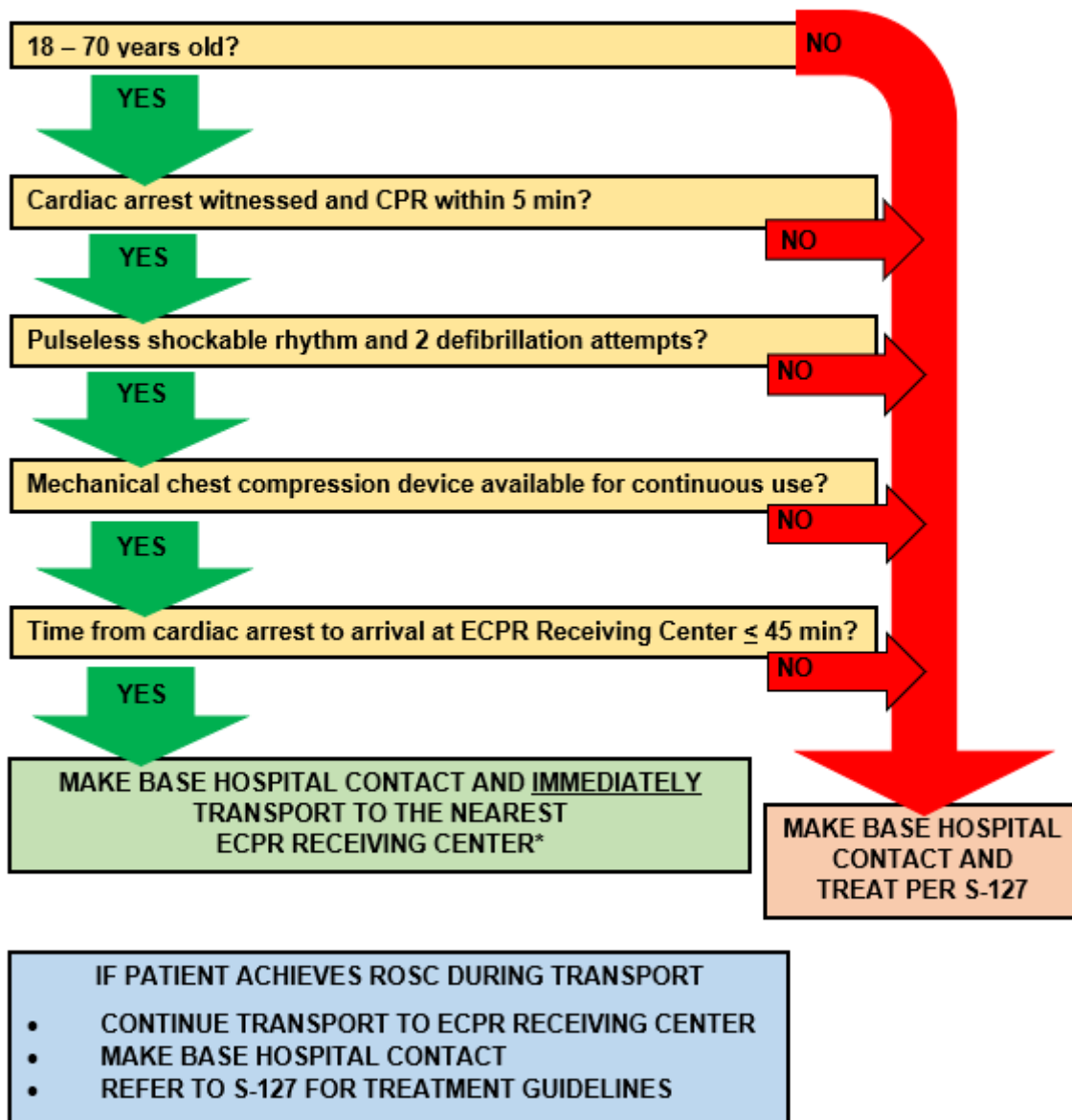


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EXTRACORPOREAL CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION (ECPR) DECISION ALGORITHM



*Bypass non-ECPR STEMI Receiving Centers