

Any patient with signs, symptoms, and history suggesting inadequate tissue perfusion should be considered to be in shock. Make every effort to determine and treat the underlying cause regardless of etiology. Shock patients shall be transported **ALS** to the nearest appropriate facility for definitive care.

**NOTE: This protocol is for the treatment of medical, atraumatic patients. To treat hypovolemic trauma patients, follow [Protocol 21](#).**

Suspect possible shock in patients that present with a history of:

- a. Blood loss – vaginal or gastrointestinal bleeding
- b. Fluid loss – vomiting, diarrhea
- c. Fever, possible systemic infection
- d. Infection
- e. Cardiogenic shock or ischemia
- f. Reaction to medications
- g. Allergic reactions
- h. Pregnancy, possible ectopic pregnancy
- i. History of poor oral intake

### *General Care*

### **EMR/ BLS**

1. Initial Assessment/Care [Protocol 1](#).
2. Signs and Symptoms:
  - a. Restlessness, confusion
  - b. Weakness, dizziness
  - c. Tachycardia
  - d. Pale, cool, clammy skin
  - e. Delayed capillary refill
  - f. Coffee-ground emesis, tarry stools
3. Hypotension (systolic B/P < 90 mmHg) is a mandatory ALS Rescue transport.
4. **Any patient with a normal blood pressure, but with two or more of the above signs and symptoms will be considered to be in compensated shock and treated/transported as an ALS patient.**
5. Keep the patient supine.
6. Prevent heat loss by covering with warm blankets if available, and if the patient is not febrile.



**ALS**

7. In hypotensive patients, IV fluid administration should be based on physiological signs rather than routine IV fluid administration. Start an IV of Normal Saline.
  - a. Administer a **fluid bolus up to 1000 mL**. Monitor B/P and lung sounds often it is not mandatory to administer the entire liter of fluid prior to proceeding to Vasopressor. Clinical judgement should be utilized in determining when to proceed to Vasopressor.

8. If BP remains less than 90 mmHg, administer **Epinephrine Infusion 5-40 mcg/min**. Titrate to desired effect up to 40 mcg/min. [Appendix 9.2](#).

Mix Epinephrine 1mg/1mL, 10 mg (10 mL) into a 500mL NS bag with a 60 gtt/mL set to yield a concentration of 20 mcg/mL and begin administration at approximately 1 drop every 4 seconds and titrate to desired effect. Max dose of 40 mcg/minute (2 drops every second).

[Appendix 9.2](#)

9. If the desired effects are not achieved with the Epinephrine Infusion, administered **Dopamine Infusion at 10 mcg/kg/minute** and titrate to effect to achieve a blood pressure of 90-100mmHg systolic, max dose rate of **20 mcg/kg/min**. [Appendix 9.1](#)