

# EL DORADO COUNTY EMS AGENCY

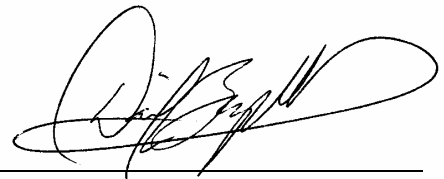
## FIELD PROCEDURES

Effective: July 1, 2009

**Reviewed:** July 2013, 2018

Revised: July 1, 2016

Scope: ALS – Adult and Pediatric



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EMS Agency Medical Director

### TRANSCUTANEOUS PACING

#### PURPOSE:

The Transcutaneous Pacing Procedure shall only be utilized as indicated in the El Dorado County Bradycardia Prehospital Protocol by ALS personnel.

#### INDICATION:

Symptomatic bradycardia in adult < 50bpm and pediatric <60bpm patients with signs of inadequate perfusion: Hypotension, Acute ALOC, Shock, chest pain.

#### PROCEDURE:

1. Connect patient to monitor and obtain rhythm strip. Obtain baseline vital signs.
2. Clip away excessive chest hair. (Shaving may produce nicks in the skin increasing the discomfort level during pacing procedure.)
3. Ensure skin is clean and dry. Remove metal necklaces and underwire bras. Check the person for implanted medical devices or piercings, place pads at least 1 inch away from implanted devices or piercings.
4. Apply adhesive pacing electrodes in the left anterior/left posterior position. (See manufacturer's operation manual for specific electrode placement.)
5. Attach pacing cable to electrodes and to pacing device as per manufacturer's directions.
6. Adjust the ECG gain to assure proper sensing of intrinsic QRS complexes.
7. Select pacing rate of 80.
8. Increase current by 10mA increments until observed evidence of pacing capture as described below. Set current to 10mA above the threshold level to ensure continued capture.
  - a. **Electrical Capture** is usually evidenced by a wide QRS and a tall, broad T wave following each pacer spike. In some patients, it may be less obvious, noted only as a change in QRS configuration. Generally occurs between 40-100mA.
  - b. **Mechanical Capture** is evidenced by a palpable pulse, rise in blood pressure, improved state of consciousness, and improved skin color.
9. Assess patient's comfort level and refer to formulary for pain management, if indicated. Withhold if systolic BP < 100.