



National Association of EMS Physicians®

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National Association of EMS Physicians® Position Statement Termination of Resuscitation of Non-Traumatic Cardiopulmonary Arrest

The National Association of EMS Physicians® (NAEMSP®) believes that:

- Emergency medical services (EMS) systems should have written protocols that allow for termination of resuscitation (TOR) by EMS providers for patients in non-traumatic cardiopulmonary arrest
- Termination of resuscitation may be considered, when at the time of decision of termination, all of the following conditions have been met:
 - The arrest was not witnessed by an EMS provider
 - There is no shockable rhythm identified by an automated external defibrillator (AED) or other electronic monitor
 - There is no return of spontaneous circulation prior to EMS transport
- Further research is needed to determine the appropriate duration of resuscitation before EMS providers decide that return of spontaneous circulation will not be achieved prior to EMS transport and the benefit of direct (on-line) medical oversight in termination of resuscitation protocols
- EMS systems that have termination of resuscitation protocols should ensure that the following additional considerations are addressed:
 - Appropriate management of the deceased patient in the field
 - Adequate support services for the patient's family
- Termination of resuscitation protocols should involve active physician oversight
- There are specific clinical, environmental, and population based situations in which TOR rules may not apply

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