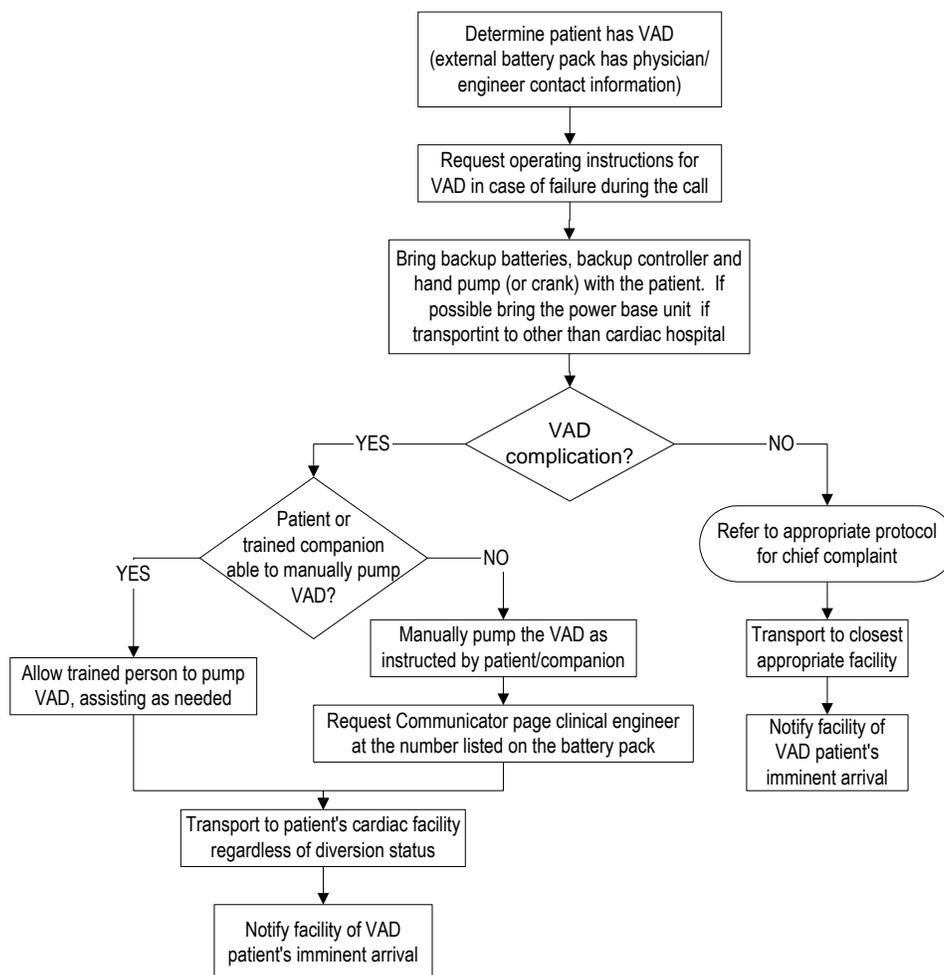


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Revision: 1

**MILWAUKEE COUNTY EMS
STANDARD OF CARE
VENTRICULAR ASSIST
DEVICES**

Approved by: Ronald Pirrallo, MD, MHSA
Signature:
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NOTES:

- Axial and Centrifugal Flow VADs **do not generally produce a palpable pulse in the patient**. Assess for other signs of adequate perfusion (alert, warm skin, capillary refill).
- Axial and Centrifugal Flow VADs produce very narrow pulse pressures (5 – 15 mm Hg). **This is normal for the device!** Use only manual blood pressure cuffs on these patients and don't be concerned if you can't detect a blood pressure.
- Chest compressions can cause a tear in the heart or the aorta in patients with a VAD – Do not initiate chest compressions prior to consulting the Clinical Engineer on call.
- Patients can tolerate prolonged Vtach, Vfib, and even Asystole. If not administered correctly, electrical shock can cause device malfunction. Do not shock a patient prior to consulting with the Clinical Engineer on call.
- **Unless the patient requires treatment for major trauma or burns, the closest appropriate facility is the patient's cardiac hospital, regardless of diversion status. If the patient receives cardiac care outside the Milwaukee area, the default receiving hospital is St. Luke's – Main Campus.** Be sure to inform the receiving hospital the patient en route has a VAD.
- Normal flow volume is approximately 4 liters/minute.