



**Resuscitation:
DROWNING
Practice Guideline**

Patient Care Goals
 1. Rapid assessment and management of life-threatening injuries
 2. Transport of appropriately selected patients

Patient Presentation:
Inclusion Criteria
 All patients with submersion/immersion in a liquid medium that impairs respiration; asphyxia preceding potential hypothermia.

Medications or Procedures:
 Airway Management with aggressive gastric suction
 Cardiac Arrest Protocols (Adult and Pediatric)
 Trauma Arrest Protocols
 Selective Spinal Stabilization PRN

Transport Considerations:
 Submersion time of < 25 minutes consider minimizing scene time and "load and go" transport to the closest ROSC hospital with high quality resuscitation enroute.

Key Documentation Elements
 1. Submersion time
 2. Type of liquid medium (water, other)
 3. Description of environment (tub, pool, open water)
 4. Surface water temperature PRN

Patient Safety Considerations
 *Asymptomatic drowning patients are at risk for severe cardiopulmonary collapse within 6 hours of submersion therefore encourage transport.

Notes:
 Submersion time is the most important factor with outcomes.
 Water temperature is not as important a factor in outcomes.

∞If trauma arrest is the primary consideration of a drowned patient, follow trauma arrest protocols.

Mechanical CPR device encouraged.

