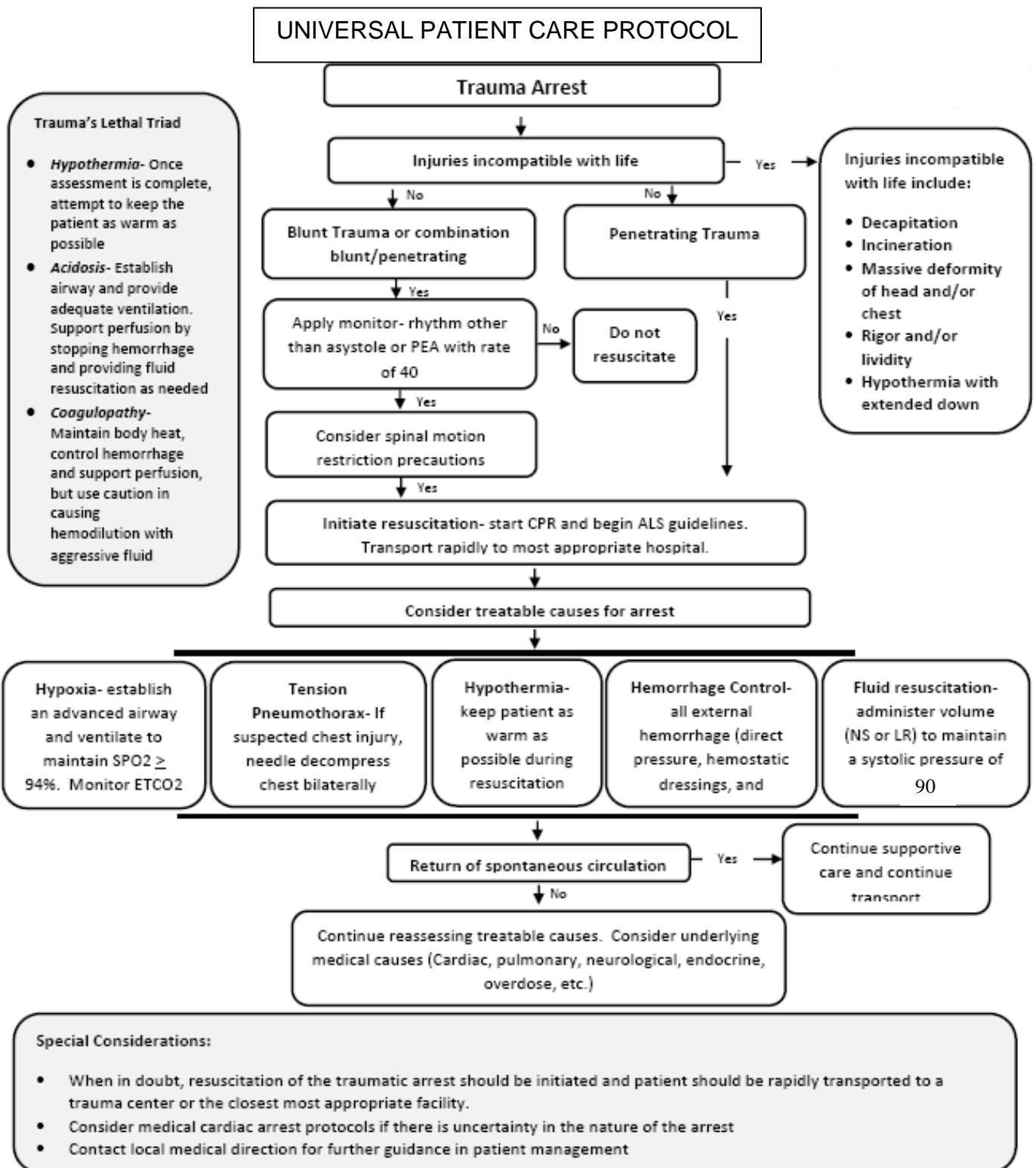




Section 6: Adult Trauma Protocols

ADULT TRAUMA: TRAUMA ARREST



Trauma's Lethal Triad

- **Hypothermia-** Once assessment is complete, attempt to keep the patient as warm as possible
- **Acidosis-** Establish airway and provide adequate ventilation. Support perfusion by stopping hemorrhage and providing fluid resuscitation as needed
- **Coagulopathy-** Maintain body heat, control hemorrhage and support perfusion, but use caution in causing hemodilution with aggressive fluid



Section 6: Adult Trauma Protocols

ADULT TRAUMA: TRAUMA ARREST-Cont.

PEARLS and KEY POINTS

HISTORY	SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Time of injury• Mechanism: blunt / penetrating• Loss of consciousness• Bleeding• Medications• Evidence of multi-trauma	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excessive bleeding• Unresponsive; not breathing• Cardiac arrest• Significant mechanism of injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Obvious DOA• Death

- Immediately transport traumatic cardiac arrest patients.
- With the exception of airway management, traumatic cardiac arrests are “load and go” situations.
- Resuscitation should not be attempted in cardiac arrest patients with spinal transection, decapitation, or total body burns, nor in patients with obvious, severe blunt trauma that are without vital signs, pupillary response, or an organized or shockable cardiac rhythm at the scene. Patients in cardiac arrest with deep penetrating cranial injuries and patients with penetrating cranial or truncal wounds associated with asystole and a transport time of more than 15 minutes to a definitive care facility are unlikely to benefit from resuscitative efforts.
- Extensive, time-consuming care of trauma victims in the field is usually not warranted. Unless the patient is trapped, they should be enroute to a medical facility within 10 minute after arrival of the ambulance on the scene.