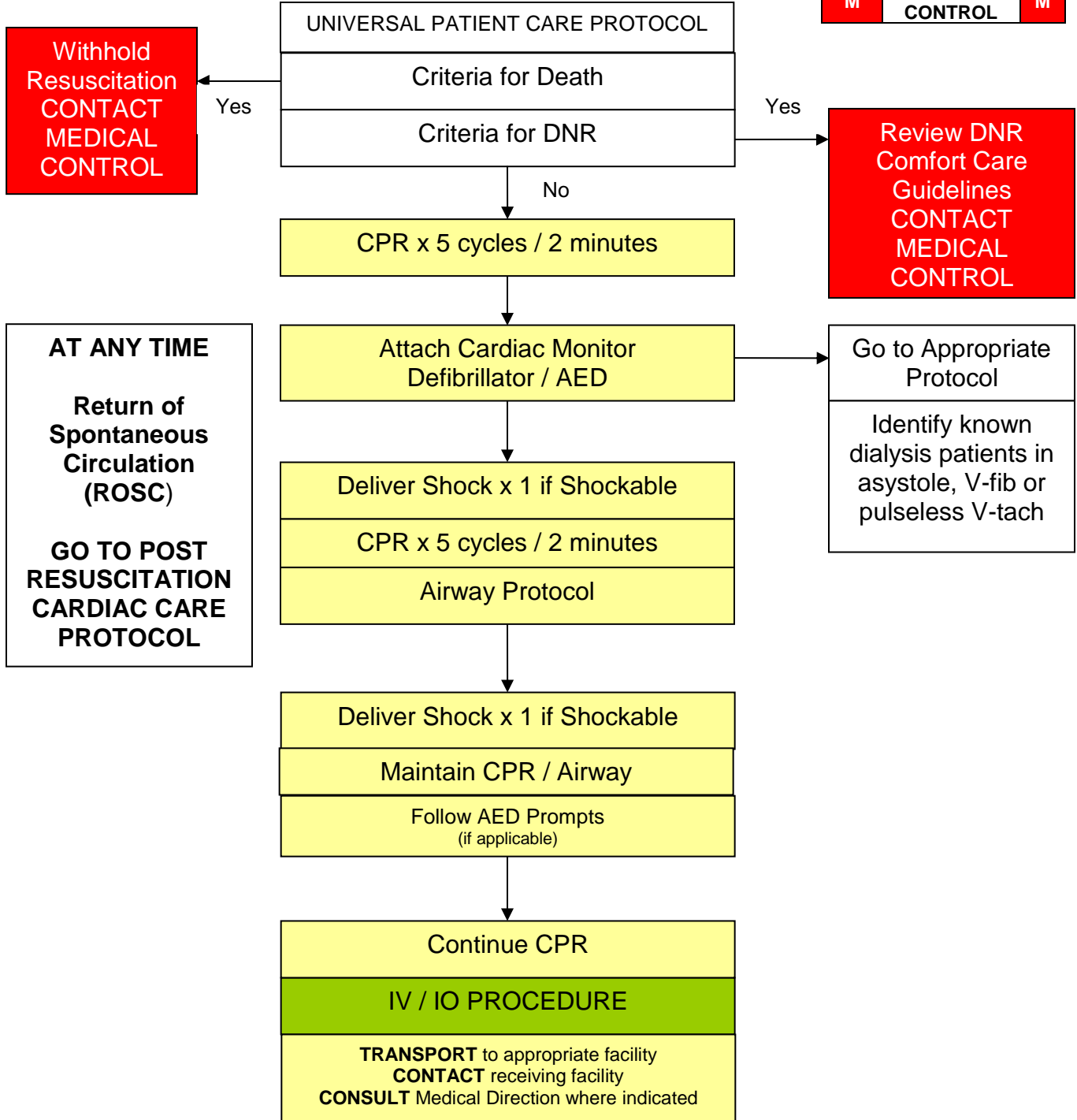




# Section 4: Adult ACLS Protocols

## ADULT ACLS: CARDIAC ARREST

E	EMT	E
A	AEMT	A
P	PARAMEDIC	P
M	MED CONTROL	M





## Section 4: Adult ACLS Protocols

### ADULT ACLS: CARDIAC ARREST-Cont.

#### PEARLS and KEY POINTS

HISTORY	SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Events leading to arrest</li> <li>• Estimated downtime</li> <li>• Past medical history</li> <li>• Medications</li> <li>• Existence of terminal illness</li> <li>• Signs of lividity, rigor mortis</li> <li>• DNR</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unresponsive</li> <li>• Apneic</li> <li>• Pulseless</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical vs. trauma</li> <li>• V-fib vs. pulseless V-tach</li> <li>• Asystole</li> <li>• Pulseless electrical activity (PEA)</li> </ul>

- Exam: Mental Status
- Always minimize interruptions to chest compressions.
- Success is based on proper planning and execution. Procedures require space and patient access, make room to work.
- Reassess airway frequently and with every patient move.
- Maternal arrest - Treat mother per appropriate protocol with immediate notification to Medical Control and rapid transport with manual left uterine displacement.
- If the patient converts to another rhythm, refer to the appropriate protocol and treat accordingly.
- Attempt to obtain patient history from family members or bystanders.
  - Estimated down time
  - Medical history
  - Complaints prior to arrest
  - Bystander CPR prior to EMS arrival
  - AED use prior to EMS arrival
- Administer Dextrose 50% (D50) or Dextrose 10% (D10) only if the patient has a blood glucose level < 60 mg / dl. Dextrose 50% (D50) or Dextrose 10% (D10) should be administered as soon as hypoglycemia is determined.
- Consider Narcan (Naloxone) if known or suspected to have used narcotics, after standard ACLS initiated.
- Reassess the patient if the interventions do not produce any changes.
- If indicated, refer to the TERMINATION OF RESUSCITATION EFFORTS POLICY.