

**PEORIA AREA EMS SYSTEM
PEDIATRIC PREHOSPITAL CARE MANUAL**

Pediatric Shock Protocol

The pediatric patient in shock can pose a challenge to the prehospital professional. Since pediatric patients have young, strong cardiovascular systems, they can compensate extremely well. This can mask the signs and symptoms of shock until the child's cardiovascular system tires and begins to decompensate. Once the pediatric patient enters into a state of decompensated shock, prognosis for a full recovery is poor.

Conditions that may indicate impending shock include:

- Significant mechanism of injury
- Tender and/or distended abdomen
- Pelvic instability
- Bilateral femur fractures

“Load & Go” with any trauma patient with signs and symptoms of shock – on scene treatment should be minimal. Conduct a *Primary Survey*, manage the airway, take C-spine precautions & immobilize and control any life-threatening hemorrhage. Contact Medical Control as early as possible.

First Responder Care

First Responder Care should be focused on assessing the situation and initiating routine patient care to assure that the patient has a patent airway, is breathing and has a perfusing pulse as well as beginning treatment for shock.

1. Render initial care in accordance with the *Routine Pediatric Care Protocol* and *Routine Pediatric Trauma Care Protocol*.
2. **Oxygen:** 15 L/min via non-rebreather mask or 6 L/min via nasal cannula if the patient cannot tolerate a mask. Be prepared to support the patient's respirations with BVM if necessary.
3. Control bleeding using direct pressure, pressure dressings and pressure points.

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BLS Care

BLS Care should be directed at conducting a thorough patient assessment, initiating routine patient care to assure that the patient has a patent airway, is breathing and has a perfusing pulse as well as beginning treatment for shock and preparing the patient for or providing transport.

1. Render initial care in accordance with the *Routine Pediatric Care Protocol* and *Routine Pediatric Trauma Care Protocol*.
2. **Oxygen:** 15 L/min via non-rebreather mask or 6 L/min via nasal cannula if the patient does not tolerate a mask. Be prepared to support the patient's respirations with BVM if necessary.
3. Control bleeding using direct pressure, pressure dressings and pressure points.
4. Initiate ALS intercept and transport as soon as possible.
5. Contact Medical Control as soon as possible.

ILS Care

ILS Care should be directed at continuing or establishing care, conducting a thorough patient assessment, stabilizing the patient's perfusion and preparing for or providing patient transport.

1. Render initial care in accordance with the *Routine Pediatric Care Protocol* and *Routine Pediatric Trauma Care Protocol*.
2. **Oxygen:** 15 L/min via non-rebreather mask or 6 L/min via nasal cannula if the patient does not tolerate a mask. Be prepared to support the patient's respirations with BVM if necessary.
3. Control bleeding using direct pressure, pressure dressings and pressure points.
4. **IV Fluid Therapy:** 20mL/kg fluid bolus. May repeat x 2 to a maximum of 60mL/kg (**Note:** Exceeding 40mL/kg requires **Medical Control order**).
5. **Contact Medical Control** and transport as soon as possible.

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ALS Care

ALS Care should be directed at continuing or establishing care, conducting a thorough patient assessment, stabilizing the patient's perfusion and preparing for or providing patient transport.

1. Render initial care in accordance with the *Routine Pediatric Care Protocol* and *Routine Pediatric Trauma Care Protocol*.
2. **Oxygen:** 15 L/min via non-rebreather mask or 6 L/min via nasal cannula if the patient does not tolerate a mask. Be prepared to support the patient's respirations with BVM (or intubate) if necessary.
3. Control bleeding using direct pressure, pressure dressings and pressure points.
4. **IV Fluid Therapy:** 20mL/kg fluid bolus. May repeat x 2 to a maximum of 60mL/kg (*Note:* Exceeding 40mL/kg requires **Medical Control order**).
5. Transport as soon as possible.
6. **Contact Medical Control** as soon as possible.

Critical Thinking Elements

- **Pediatric patients will compensate for shock as long as they have the energy to do so. Once pediatric patients start to decompensate due to shock, it is exceedingly difficult to reverse the process. Therefore, it is imperative that shock is identified and treated early!**