

POLICY: 555.65
 TITLE: Pediatric Non-Fatal Drowning

EFFECTIVE: 02/01/2026
 REVIEW: 02/2028
 SUPERCEDES:

APPROVAL SIGNATURES ON FILE IN EMS OFFICE

PEDIATRIC NON-FATAL DROWNING

- I. AUTHORITY
Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9
- II. PURPOSE
To serve as a patient treatment standard for EMRs, EMTs, and Paramedics within their scope of practice.
- III. PROTOCOL
Drowning or near drowning patients may also have significant head, neck, and back injuries. Strongly consider spinal immobilization when a history of jumping or diving into the water exists, or the history is unclear.

Provider Key: F = First Responder/EMR E = EMT O = EMT Local Optional SOP
 P = Paramedic D = Base Hospital Physician Order Required

	F	E	O	P	D
SPINAL MOTION RESTRICTION: as indicated.	X	X	X	X	
ASSESSMENT	X	X	X	X	
PULSE OXIMETRY: apply and monitor.		X	X	X	
OXYGEN: if pulse oximetry < 94% or signs of respiratory distress or hypoperfusion.	X	X	X	X	
BLS AIRWAY: okay if airway patent. Support ventilations with appropriate airway adjuncts.	X	X	X	X	
SUPRAGLOTTIC AIRWAY: if GCS is < 8 and not rapidly improving, consider SGA.			X	X	
CAPNOGRAPHY: apply and monitor if SGA has been placed.				X	
ECG MONITOR: lead placement may be delegated. Treat as indicated.				X	
VASCULAR ACCESS: IV/IO, rate as indicated.				X	
PUSH DOSE EPINEPHRINE: To treat hypotension. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw up patient 0.01 mg/kg code dose 1:10,000 (0.1 mg/mL) epi • In same syringe, draw the necessary quantity of NS to total 10 mL • Label the syringe with “epi” and the calculated concentration in mcg/mL • Give 1 mL (1 mcg/kg) every 1 – 2 minutes and titrate to age appropriate SBP 				X	

CONSIDER:
555.62 Hypothermia-Frostbite
555.82 Trauma and Traumatic Shock

Pediatric Normal Vital Signs

<i>Age</i>	HR	RR	BP	Temp (C)	Temp (F)
<i>Premie</i>	120-170	40-70	55-75/35-45	36-38	96.8-100.4
<i>0-3 months</i>	100-160	35-60	65-85/45-55	36-38	96.8-100.4
<i>3-6 months</i>	90-120	30-45	70-90/50-65	36-38	96.8-100.4
<i>6-12 months</i>	80-120	25-40	80-100/55-65	36-38	96.8-100.4
<i>1-3 years</i>	70-110	20-30	90-105/55-70	36-38	96.8-100.4
<i>3-6 years</i>	65-110	20-25	90-110/60-75	36-38	96.8-100.4
<i>6-12 years</i>	65-100	14-22	90-120/60-75	36-38	96.8-100.4
<i>12+</i>	55-100	12-20	100-135/65-85	36-38	96.8-100.4