Mercy EMS Education

Clinical Operations

Oct 5, 2026

Manual Blood pressures with questionable readings

- Blood pressures that are significantly variable should be followed with a manual reading (BP or Palp)
- Blood pressures do not match the clinical picture of the patient.
- Use a manual cuff to obtain blood pressure or a manual palpated pulse with the manual cuff.
- Document the concern for variability or clinically why this may not match the patients condition.

Arterial vs venous occlusion. DVT vs arterial occlusion are addressed differently and may require different destination decisions.

- The majority of DVT's are addressed with heparin or other blood thinners.
- Venous occlusion often presents with swelling.
- Arterial occlusions are often surgical emergencies.
- Arterial occlusions often present with palor, cold, and pain.
- Destinations for arterial occlusions often need vascular surgery and/or interventional radiology.

STEMI patients may not present until in transport and the importance of repeat EKG as per guidelines.

- Change of pain, continued pain or transport times that allow – repeat EKG's may provide vital information
- As this case below, the initial EKG showed no ST elevation and repeat below that allowed the crew to proceed with a STEMI activation.

