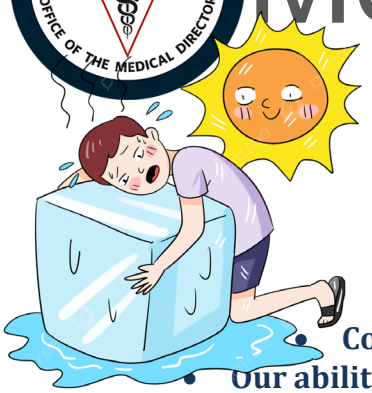


Mercy EMS Education

Clinical Operations Team

Fine Tuning Our Practice

Aug 17, 2026



Heat Illness

- **Continue TACO as needed – your early cooling of a patient is life saving**
- **Our ability to cool the patient with TACO is likely much more efficient than the ER and their ability to cool the patient.**
- **Do NOT report to the ED as a STROKE activation – please call this heat illness (this can confuse the ED and mobilize resources that are likely not needed)**

Trauma cases with even one episode of low blood pressure should be reported to the ED as hypotension.

- **Even one episode of hypotension increases the complication and likelihood of surgical emergencies and should be reported by Pulsara or radio.**
- **A stable patient may have life threatening bleeding and only one episode of hypotension can be our only symptoms.**
- **Blood pressure medicine medicines, young, healthy, pediatrics will all mask critical findings and appear stable.**

40's y/o with syncope and hypotension after being stung behind the ear by a wasp. Some swelling and redness is noted at the sting location.

- **Aggressive early treatment of epinephrine is lifesaving – as the early epi is given, the less aggressive the allergic cascade can develop.**
- **Benadryl, steroids, IV fluids and albuterol for wheezing - should all be considered.**

NFPA 1580 (National fire association recommendations) establishes the need for Fire Department Rehab criteria, standards and a decision tree for returning to duty that should be part of a Fire Departments policies.

- **We will provide help with vital signs when needed during standbys to support our first responder partners.**
- **However, decisions to enter rehab, released from rehab, removed from duty or return to duty decisions are all made by the Fire Department Command and the Fire Department's policies.**

<u>Do not ask ethnicity questions for our ePCR or NEMSIS data, you may mark these as your best interpretation</u> – (the question can be sensitive for some ethnicities and your assessment of the patients ethnicity is sufficient).

EMS STRONG

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TRUVEN HEALTH ANALYTICS 15 TOP HEALTH SYSTEMS 2016