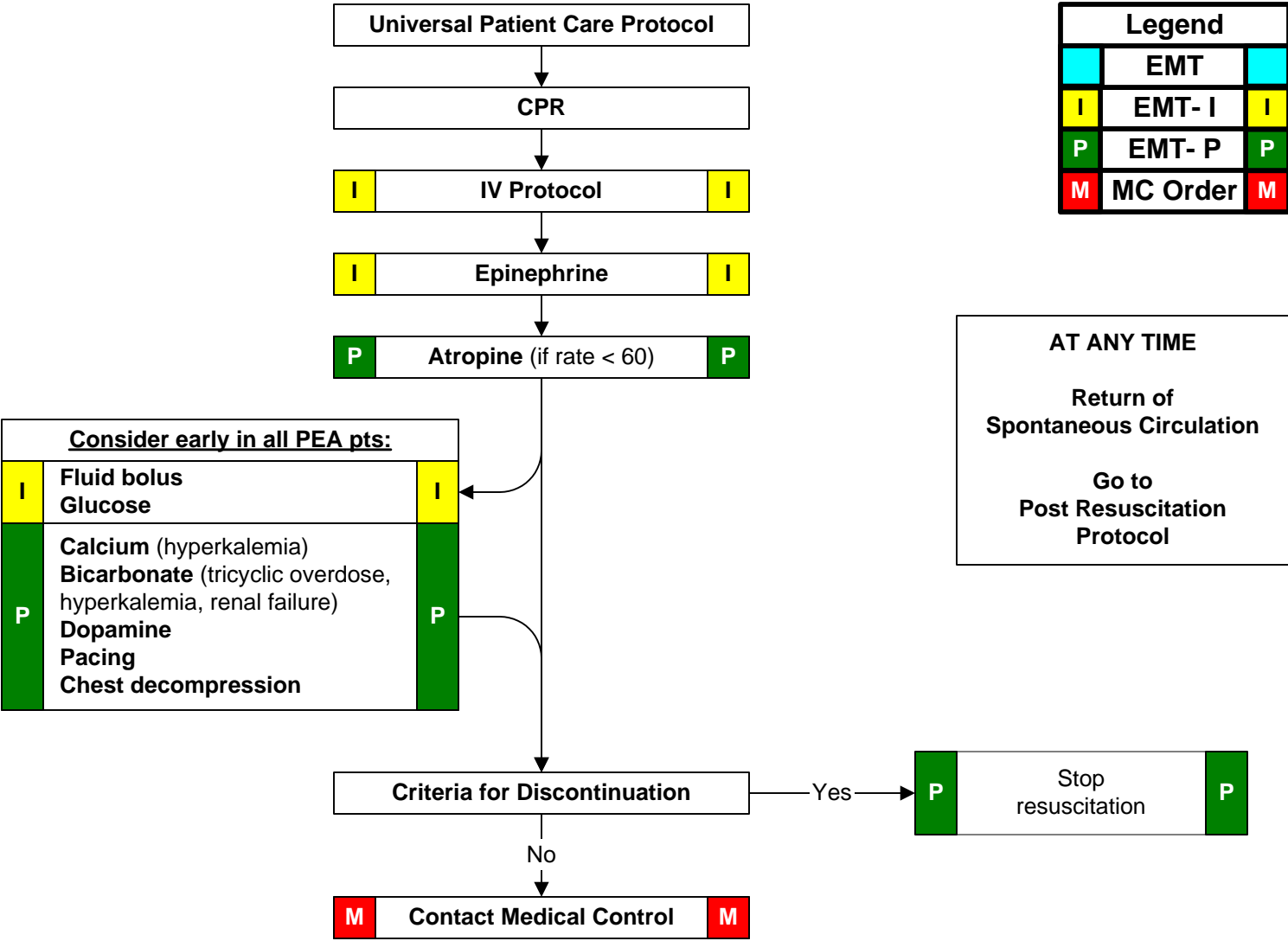




Pulseless Electrical Activity (PEA)



History: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past medical history • Medications • Events leading to arrest • End stage renal disease • Estimated downtime • Suspected hypothermia • Suspected overdose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tricyclics • Digitalis • Beta blockers • Calcium channel blockers • DNR or living will 	Signs and Symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pulseless • Apneic • Electrical activity on ECG 	Differential: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypovolemia (Trauma, AAA, other) • Cardiac tamponade • Hypothermia • Drug overdose (Tricyclics, Digitalis, Beta blockers, Calcium channel blockers) • Massive myocardial infarction • Hypoxia • Tension pneumothorax • Pulmonary embolus • Acidosis • Hyperkalemia
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Pearls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam: Mental Status • Consider each possible cause listed in the differential: Survival is based on identifying and correcting the cause! • Discussion with Medical Control can be a valuable tool in developing a differential diagnosis and identifying possible treatment options.
