

*Michigan*  
**Adult Treatment Protocols**  
DROWNING / NEAR DROWNING / SUBMERSION

Date: May 31, 2012

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***Drowning/Near Drowning/Submersion***

**Pre-Medical Control**

**MFR/EMT/SPECIALIST/PARAMEDIC**

1. Follow **General Pre-hospital Care Protocol**.
  - a. Assess patient's temperature.
2. **If pulse is absent:**
  - A. If documented submersion time is greater than 1 hour refer to the **Dead on Scene Procedure**.
  - B. In normothermic patients initiate CPR and refer to **Cardiac Arrest – General Protocol**.
  - C. If patient is hypothermic, go to **Hypothermia Cardiac Arrest Protocol**.
3. **If pulse is present:**
  - A. If patient is hypothermic, go to **Hypothermia/Frostbite Protocol**.
  - B. Prevent further heat loss by transport in a warm environment. Patient should be dry.

**EMT/SPECIALIST/PARAMEDIC**

- C. Consider CPAP/BiPAP (if available) per **CPAP/BiPAP Procedure**.
- D. Contact Medical Control if no transport is considered or requested.

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