



APPARENT LIFE THREATING EVENT (ALTE) – PEDIATRIC

An Apparent Life-Threatening Event (ALTE) is defined as an episode that occurs in a child 3 years-old and younger that is frightening to the observer and is characterized by some combination of:

- Apnea (central or obstructive)
- Color change (cyanosis, pallor, erythema)
- Marked change in muscle tone
- Unexplained choking or gagging

For observed or reported seizure activity, refer to SO-P-75 (Seizure).

ALS STANDING ORDERS:

1. Insure upper airway is open and assess ventilation:
 - ▶ *Assist ventilation with bag-valve-mask as necessary, avoid hyperventilation.*
 - ▶ *If ventilation effort adequate, provide blow-by oxygen as tolerated*
2. When possible, leave child in caretaker's arm in position of comfort.
3. Cardiac monitor and document rhythm.
4. For respiratory distress, bradycardia, or other specific symptom; refer to specific appropriate standing order.
5. Transport by ALS escort to appropriate ERC.
 - Contact Base Hospital if parents/caregiver wishes to sign AMA or go by private vehicle.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Nathaniel".

Review Dates: 05/16, 11/16
Final Date for Implementation: 04/01/2017
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TREATMENT GUIDELINES:

CONDITIONS THAT MAY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALTE:

A wide variety of illnesses and etiologies are associated with an ALTE episode. These include:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Airway disease | Cardiac arrhythmias /anomalies |
| Child abuse | Gastroesophageal reflux |
| Infantile botulism | Infections |
| Inborn errors of metabolism | Intracranial hemorrhage |
| Meningitis | “Near-miss” SIDS |
| Pertussis (whooping cough) | Respiratory syncytial virus |
| Seizure | Sepsis |

NOTE:

The American Academy of Pediatrics in May of 2016 recommended replacement of the term ALTE with **BRUE, Brief Resolved Unexplained Events.**

Approved:

S. Prathmu

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