

## Medical: Near-Drowning

### EMR

- ABC and vital signs, if the patient is pulseless and apneic, proceed to appropriate cardiac protocol.
- Stabilize spine prior to removing patient from water if there is any suggestion of neck injury.
- Airway management with **oxygen** therapy maintaining a SaO<sub>2</sub> of 94-98% through titration.
- Keep patient warm and dry and remove any wet clothing.
- If other trauma is suspected, refer to the appropriate Trauma protocol.
- If hypothermic, see Hypothermia protocol.

### EMR STOP

### EMT

- Cardiac monitor

### EMT STOP

### EMT IV

### ADVANCED EMT

- Vascular access, administer warm IV fluids

### EMT IV / ADVANCED EMT STOP

### Key Points/Considerations

- Near drownings may have rapid development of pulmonary edema.
- All near drownings or submersions should be transported.
- Any patient can deteriorate rapidly.
- If the patient is hypothermic, defibrillation may be unsuccessful until the patient is warmed.
- Many near drownings involve diving injuries to the cervical spine.