



USE OF INVASIVE TEMPERATURE PROBES

PURPOSE

This policy outlines the indications for use of invasive temperature probes in the Prehospital environment.

POLICY

Invasive temperature probes (defined herein as thermometers placed in the esophageal and rectal space) may be used when available by paramedics trained in its use according to the manufacturer's guidelines, the following procedure, and as approved by the Agency Medical Director.

INDICATIONS

1. Accurate core temperature measurements are necessary to optimize patient care in the following circumstances:
 - a. Concern for significant hyperthermia
 - b. Concern for significant hypothermia
2. Patient is 16 years of age or greater
3. Patient is unconscious

CONTRAINDICATIONS

1. Caustic ingestion for esophageal placement
2. Active upper GI hemorrhage for esophageal and rectal placement
3. Active lower GI hemorrhage for rectal placement
4. Known esophageal disease (varices, esophageal cancer, etc) for esophageal placement

CONSIDERATIONS

1. In intubated non-trauma patients, preference is given to insertion of the esophageal probe.
2. In intubated trauma patients, preference is given to insertion of the rectal probe.
3. In unconscious but non-intubated patients, preference is given to insertion of the rectal probe.
4. Insert device according to manufacturer's instructions. Attempts should be limited to three.
5. Follow the appropriate regional protocols for continued treatment of underlying condition (Hyperthermia or Hypothermia).