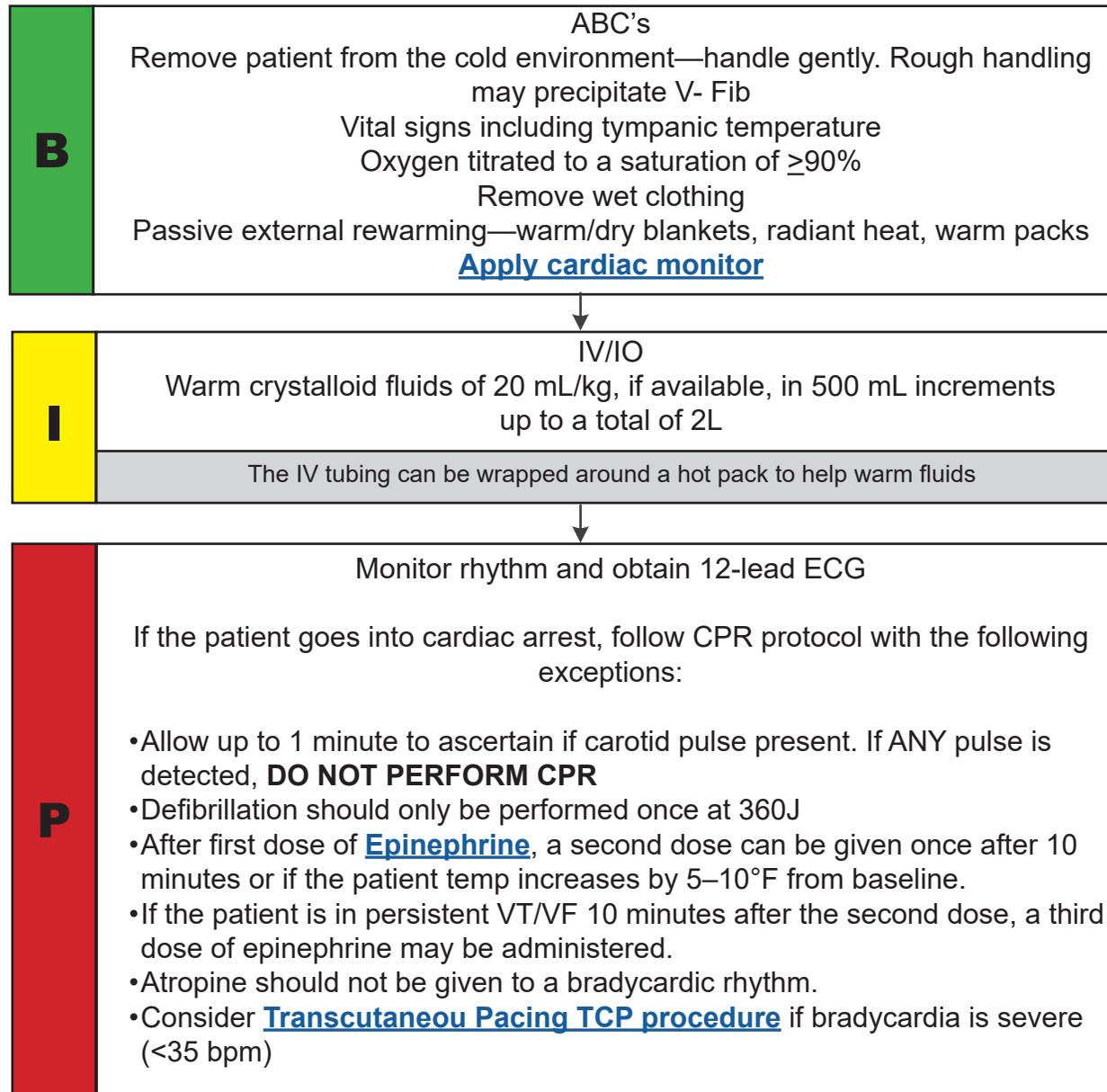


# Adult Medical Hypothermia

**Designation of Condition:** Patient will have experienced a prolonged unprotected exposure to the environment. The patient will be cool or cold to the touch with marked depression of critical body functions. Severe signs/symptoms may include AMS, unstable dysrhythmia and/or temp < 90° F



## \*\*\*KEY POINTS\*\*\*

Resuscitation should be withheld in hypothermic patients only if the cause of cardiac arrest is clearly attributable to a lethal injury, fatal illness, prolonged asphyxia, or if the chest is incompressible. In all other hypothermic patients, the traditional guiding principle that 'no one is dead until warm and dead' should be considered.

Arrhythmias other than VF tend to revert spontaneously as core temperature increases, and usually do not require immediate treatment. Bradycardia is physiological in severe hypothermia. Cardiac pacing is not indicated unless bradycardia associated with hemodynamic compromise persists after rewarming.