

Patient Management For VADs

1. **Assess the patients airway and intervene per your protocol.**
2. **Auscultate Heart Sounds to determine if the device is functioning and what type of device it is. If it is continuous flow device, you should hear a “whirling sound”.**
3. **Assess the device for any alarms.**
4. **Look on controller usually found around the waist of the patient and to see what color tag and device it is.**
5. **Match the color on the device tag to the EMS Guide.**
6. **Intervene appropriately based on the type of alarm, tag (device) and EMS Guide.**
7. **Start Large Bore IV.**
8. **Assess vital signs – Use Mean BP with Doppler – with the first sound you hear is the Mean Arterial Pressure (MAP).**
9. **If no Doppler, use the Mean on the non invasive blood pressure machine.**
10. **Transport to closest VAD center. Call the number on the device to get advice.**
11. **Bring all of the patients equipment.**
12. **Bring the significant other if possible to act as a expert on the device in the absence of consciousness in the patient.**