



ORANGE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
BASE HOSPITAL TREATMENT GUIDELINES

#: BH-P-005  
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Org. Date: 4/01/2013  
Revise Date: 8/05/2024

BRIEF RESOLVED UNEXPLAINED EVENT (BRUE/ALTE) – PEDIATRIC

BASE GUIDELINES

Brief Resolved Unexplained Event (BRUE/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 a combination of:

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

CONDITIONS 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 reflex       |
| Infantile botulism          | Infections                    |
| Inborn errors of metabolism | Intracranial hemorrhage       |
| Meningitis                  | "Near-miss" SIDS              |
| Pertussis (whooping cough)  | Respiratory syncytial virus   |
| Seizure                     | Sepsis                        |

- Assure upper airway is open and assess ventilation:
  - o Assist ventilation with bag-valve-mask as necessary, avoid hyperventilation.
  - o If ventilation effort adequate, provide blow-by oxygen as tolerated
- When possible, leave child in caretaker's arms in position of comfort
- Cardiac Monitor and document rhythm
- Transport to CCERC:
- ALS escort
- Contacting base hospital or CCERC (preferred) is required

ALS STANDING ORDER

**No ALS Standing Orders exist for this condition. Therefore, base hospital/CCERC (pediatric base preferred) contact is required per OCEMS Policy #310.00.**

Approved:

Reviewed: 10/2017; 01/2019; 9/2019; 8/2024  
Final Date for Implementation: 8/7/2024  
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**BASE GUIDELINES**

Pediatric GCS (Procedure B-02):

Variable	Description	Score
<b>Eye Opening</b>	Eyes opening spontaneously	4
	Eyes opening to sound	3
	Eyes opening in response to painful stimulus	2
	No eye opening	1
<b>Verbal Response</b>	Smiles, oriented to sounds, follows objects, interacts, coos	5
	Irritable cries and inappropriate interactions	4
	Cries in response to pain	3
	Inconsolable and moans in response to pain	2
	No verbal response	1
<b>Motor Response</b>	Infant moves spontaneously or purposefully	6
	Infant withdraws from touch	5
	Infant withdraws from pain	4
	Abnormal flexion to pain for an infant (decorticate response)	3
	Extension to pain (decerebrate response)	2
	No motor response	1
<b>Maximum Score</b>		<b>15</b>

**ALS STANDING ORDER**

Approved:

*Carl Schultz, MD*

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