

**Ambulance Victoria**  
**Clinical Practice Guidelines**  
for Ambulance and MICA Paramedics  
**2012 Edition**





### **Clinical Practice Guidelines**

for Ambulance and MICA Paramedics

Revised Edition  
October 2011  
Ambulance Victoria

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### **Disclaimer**

These Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs) have been approved for use by Ambulance Victoria (AV) Ambulance Paramedics and Mobile Intensive Care Ambulance (MICA) Paramedics by the AV Medical Advisory Committee. The content in these Guidelines is for information purposes only and is not intended to be relied on as a substitute for the provision of medical advice or treatment. Neither AV nor its suppliers accept any liability to any person for the information or advice which is provided in these CPGs, including any injuries occurring or being aggravated as a result of the information contained in these CPGs. The information in the CPGs is provided on the basis that all persons reading the CPGs undertake responsibility for assessing the relevance and accuracy of its content.

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# Foreword

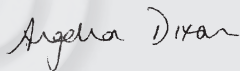
These Clinical Practice Guidelines are those approved for use by Ambulance Paramedics and Mobile Intensive Care (MICA) Paramedics in Victoria. They are endorsed by the Ambulance Victoria Medical Advisory Committee and represent a mixture of best available evidence and consensus of medical opinion for dealing with the most common pre-hospital emergencies.

It is envisaged that these guidelines will be followed under normal circumstances. It is recognised that alternative methods of treatment exist and that from time to time circumstances may arise where the patient in a life threatening situation may require the guidelines to be varied in some aspect. Such variation should only be made after appropriate medical consultation and will be subject to clinical review as part of Ambulance Victoria's clinical governance processes.

These guidelines are designed to be supported by appropriate education and training. They may be of value to other personnel involved in providing emergency medical care. As far as possible, guidelines for flight paramedics and protocols for first responders remain consistent with these guidelines.

Each CPG clearly outlines the respective practice levels for AV Ambulance and MICA paramedics. The use of separate colour coding for MICA paramedic intervention removes the need for a separate Authority to Practice Matrix. It is important to note that not all Ambulance and MICA paramedics are credentialed to practice independently at the levels defined within these Guidelines. Individuals are responsible for ensuring they only operate within their individually approved scope of practice and should contact the Quality and Education Services Division for clarification regarding practice approvals if required.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of these CPGs. They are under constant review in light of changes to evidence based practice. Feedback is welcome as these guidelines remain continually evolving.



**Angelia Dixon**  
Chair AV Medical Advisory Committee

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# Guide to Abbreviations

@	'At' relating to time intervals between dose/action/intervention	CCF	Congestive Cardiac Failure	hr	hour
AAA	Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm	C.O.	Cardiac Output (L/min.)	HR	Heart Rate
ACS	Acute Coronary Syndrome	CCO	Casualty Collecting Officer	Hx	History
ADLs	Activities of Daily Living	COPD	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	ICP	Intracranial pressure
AF	Atrial Fibrillation	CPAP	Continuous Positive Airway Pressure	IFS	Intubation Facilitated by Sedation
AIVR	Accelerated Idioventricular Rhythm	CPG	Clinical Practice Guideline	IM	Intramuscular
ALS	Advanced Life Support	D5W	5% Dextrose	IN	Intranasal
AMI	Acute Myocardial Infarction	DCCS	Direct Current Counter Shock	I/O	Intraosseous
AP	Ambulance Paramedic	DCR	Direct Current Reversion	IPPV	Intermittent Positive Pressure Ventilation
APH	Antepartum haemorrhage	DKA	Diabetic Ketoacidosis	IU	International Unit
APO	Acute Pulmonary Oedema	DTM	Duty Team Manager	IV	Intravenous
ARV	Adult Retrieval Victoria	dpm	drops per minute	J	Joules
AV	Ambulance Victoria	ECC	External Cardiac Compression	KED	Kendrick Extrication Device
A-V	Atrioventricular	ECG	Electrocardiogram	kg	kilograms
AVRT	Atrioventricular re-entry tachycardia	EtCO <sub>2</sub>	End-tidal carbon dioxide	LMA	Laryngeal Mask Airway
AVNRT	A-V nodal re-entry tachycardia	ETT	Endotracheal tube	Lpm	litres per minute
BGL	Blood Glucose Level	FG	French Gauge	LVF	Left Ventricular Failure
BLS	Basic Life Support	FHR	Foetal Heart Rate	max.	maximum
BP	Blood Pressure	g	gram/s	MCA	Motor Car Accident
bpm	beats per minute	GCS	Glasgow Coma Score	mcg	microgram/s
BVM	Bag-Valve-Mask	GIT	Gastrointestinal Tract	mg	milligram/s
C/I	Contraindication	GR	Grade	MICA	Mobile Intensive Care Ambulance
CBR	Chemical / Biological / Radiation	GTN	Glyceryl trinitrate	min.	minutes

# Guide to Abbreviations

ml	millilitres	PEEP	Positive End-Expiratory Pressure	sec.	second
ml/hr	millilitres per hour	PETS	Paediatric Emergency Transport Service	SIMV	Synchronous Intermittent Mandatory Ventilation
mmHg	millimetres of Mercury (Hg)	PHx	Past History	S/L	Sublingual
mmol/l	millimoles per litre	PIP	Peak Inspiratory Pressure	SOB	Short of Breath
MOI	Mechanism of Injury	pMDI	Pressurised Metered Dose Inhaler	SpO <sub>2</sub>	Saturation of haemoglobin with O <sub>2</sub> measured by Pulse Oximetry
MP	MICA Paramedic	PSA	Perfusion Status Assessment	SV	Stroke volume
MTS	Major Trauma Service	PPE	Personal Protective Equipment	SVT	Supraventricular tachycardia
MV	Minute Ventilation	PSV	Pressure Support Ventilation	STEMI	ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction
Mx	Management	Pt	Patient	TBI	Traumatic Brain Injury
NB	Note well	PV	Per Vagina	TCA	Tricyclic Antidepressant
NEPT	Non Emergency Patient Transport	QAP	Qualified Ambulance Paramedic	TCO	Transport Collecting Officer
NETS	Newborn Emergency Transport Service	QRS	QRS complex of ECG	TKVO	To Keep Vein Open
NG	Nasogastric	R & R	Rest & Reassurance	TPT	Tension Pneumothorax
NPA	Nasopharyngeal Airway	ROSC	Return of Spontaneous Circulation	Tx	Transport
NSTEMI	Non-ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction	RSA	Respiratory Status Assessment	UA	Unstable Angina
O <sub>2</sub>	Oxygen	RSI	Rapid Sequence Intubation	VF	Ventricular Fibrillation
OD	Overdose	RTA	Road Traffic Accident	Vol	Volume
ODD	Oesophageal Detector Device	R/V	Rendezvous	VSS	Vital Signs Survey
OG	Orogastric	Rx	Treatment	V <sub>T</sub>	Tidal Volume
OPA	Oropharyngeal Airway	SAH	Sub-Arachnoid Haemorrhage	VT	Ventricular Tachycardia
PCI	Percutaneous Coronary Intervention	S Rural	Selected AV Rural APs permitted to perform skill	Wt	Weight (kg)
PCR	Pt Care Record	SCI	Spinal Cord Injury	x/60	x minutes e.g. 5/60 = 5 minutes
PEA	Pulseless Electrical Activity				

# Graphic Guide

## Special Notes

- Information to support the Guideline and improve the user's understanding of a concept.

## General Care

- Provides supporting information or care related to the Guideline. e.g. Infusion preparations.

# Graphic Guide

