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## **ALS STANDING ORDER:**

An Apparent Life-Threatening Event (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 some combination of:

- Apnea (central or obstructive)
- Color change (cyanosis, pallor, erythema)
- Marked change in muscle tone
- Unexplained choking or gagging
- 1. Insure upper airway is open and assess ventilation:
  - Assist ventilation with bag-valve-mask as necessary, avoid hyperventilation.
  - ▶ If ventilation effort adequate, provide blow-by oxygen as tolerated
- 2. When possible, leave child in caretaker's arm in position of comfort.
- 3. Cardiac monitor and document rhythm.
- 4. Transport to appropriate PRC:
  - ALS escort, if child is symptomatic
  - BLS transport, if child is asymptomatic
  - If parent or caretaker signs AMA, notify Base Hospital

## **GUIDELINES:**

## 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 reflux

Infantile botulism Infections

Inborn errors of metabolism Intracranial hemorrhage

Meningitis "Near-miss" SIDS

Pertussis (whooping cough) Respiratory syncytial virus

Seizure Sepsis

