

# Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG): Traumatic Arrest

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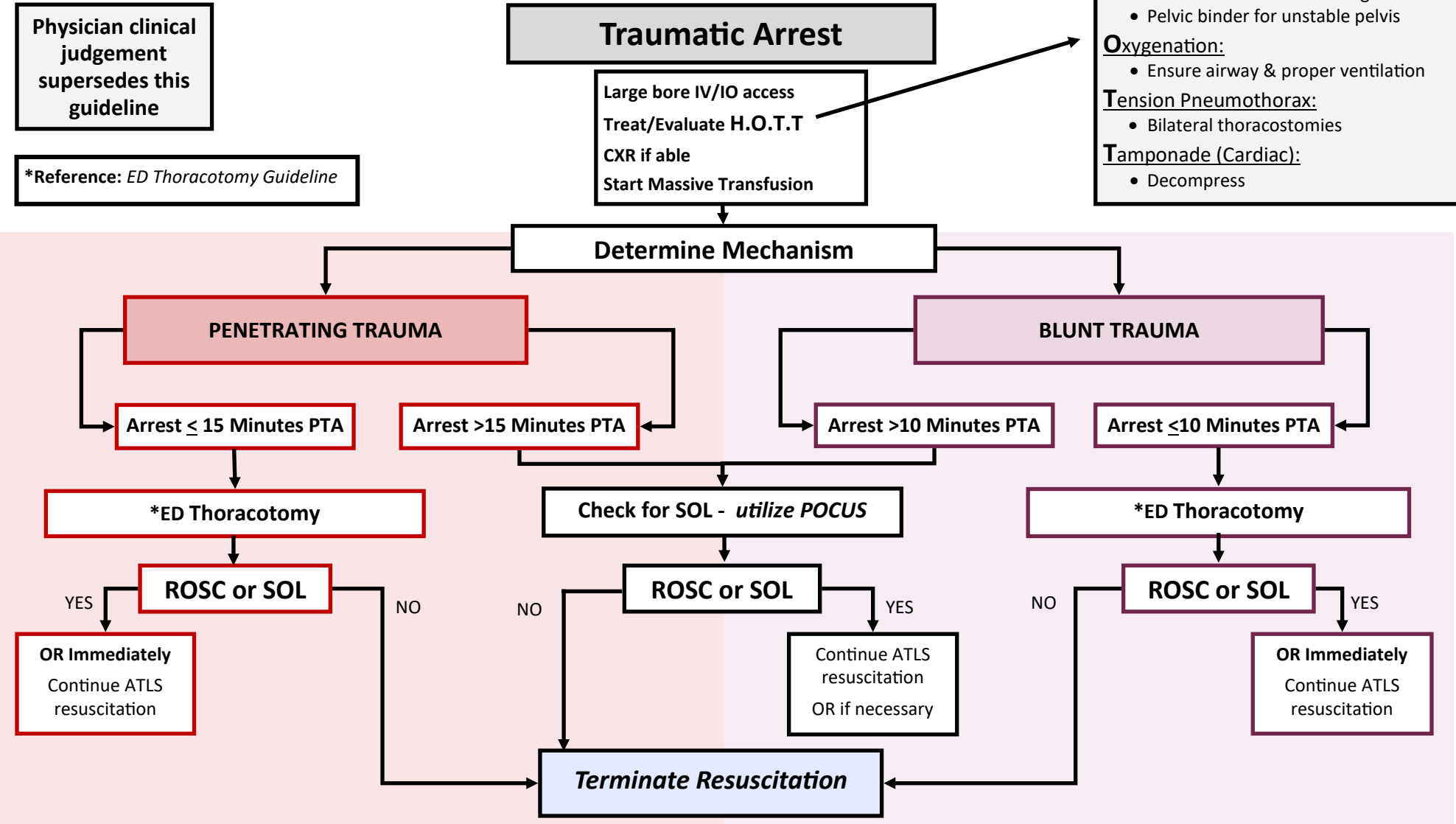
Latest Approval: 11/8/2024

**ACLS CPR should NOT interfere with ATLS procedures**

Physician clinical judgement supersedes this guideline

\*Reference: ED Thoracotomy Guideline

- Hypovolemia:**
- Consider Massive Transfusion Protocol
  - Control external hemorrhage
  - Pelvic binder for unstable pelvis
- Oxygenation:**
- Ensure airway & proper ventilation
- Tension Pneumothorax:**
- Bilateral thoracostomies
- Tamponade (Cardiac):**
- Decompress



**Definitions**

**SOL** (Signs of Life): spontaneous respirations, palpable pulse/BP, narrow complex QRS, cardiac activity via ultrasound, pupillary response, extremity movement

**ROSC** (Return of Spontaneous Circulation): sustained heart rhythm post arrest

**POCUS** (Point of Care Ultrasound): ultrasound to assess for pneumothorax, hemoperitoneum, hemopericardium, etc.

**Traumatic arrest:** A patient who is admitted to the trauma room with no pulses or spontaneous respiratory activity. Status includes pulseless electrical activity (PEA).

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## References:

Alremeithi R, Tran QK, Quintana MT, Shahamatdar S, Pourmand A. Approach to traumatic cardiac arrest in the emergency department: a narrative literature review for emergency providers. *World J Emerg Med.* 2024;15(1):3-9. doi: 10.5847/wjem.j.1920-8642.2023.085. PMID: 38188559; PMCID: PMC10765073.

Schober P, Giannakopoulos GF, Bulte CSE, Schwarte LA. Traumatic Cardiac Arrest-A Narrative Review. *J Clin Med.* 2024 Jan 5;13(2):302. doi: 10.3390/jcm13020302. PMID: 38256436; PMCID: PMC10816125.

Western Trauma Association. Resuscitative Thoracotomy. 2024. <https://www.westerntrauma.org/western-trauma-association-algorithms/resuscitative-thoracotomy/introduction/>