



# NEAR DROWNING



## Escambia County, Florida - ALS/BLS Medical Protocol

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Near drowning patients are those who have been submerged in fresh or salt water and may or may not be conscious.

If the patient is still in the water on arrival of EMS, a Dive Rescue Team should be utilized to remove the patient from the water whenever possible.

Additional protocols may be needed for treatment decisions (e.g. [Barotrauma](#)).

### Supportive Care

1. [Trauma Supportive Care Protocol](#) (protect C-spine).
2. Determine pertinent history (duration of submersion, depth, water temperature, possible seizure, drug and/or alcohol use).
3. Maintain body temperature, dry and warm patient.
4. **All near drowning patients should be transported to the hospital.** regardless of how well they may seem to have recovered. Delayed complications or death due to pulmonary edema or aspiration pneumonia are not uncommon.

### ALS Level 1

1. Treat dysrhythmias per specific protocol.

### ALS Level 2 (*Physician Authorization Required*)


None



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