

Cardiac Arrest?
No Signs of life
No palpable pulses

Traumatic?
(exclude hypoxia – e.g. drowning, asphyxiation, impact apnoea)

UNLIKELY

Medical Cause

Standard life support algorithms

LIKELY

Box 1: BUNDLE OF LIFESAVING INTERVENTIONS
(Prioritise over chest compressions and defibrillation)

- External haemorrhage control
- Ensure adequate oxygenation and ventilation
- Bilateral thoracostomies
- Rapid volume replacement (IV/IO) with warmed blood and blood products (crystalloid if blood not available)
- Apply pelvic binder in blunt trauma

Deliver ALS

CONSIDER THORACOTOMY
Especially in penetrating injury

ROSC?

NO

Decision to STOP resuscitation can be guided by –

- Duration of cardiac arrest
- Lack of response to life – saving interventions (Box 1)
- Persistently low ETCO₂
- Cardiac standstill on US

YES

- Consider transfer to theatre for Damage Control Surgery (DCS)
- Consider formal imaging (CT)
- Consider vasopressor in isolated head injury
- Arrange PICU transfer