ORTHOSTATIC VITAL SIGN MEASUREMENT

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

A. Orthostatic vital signs should be considered for patients with suspected blood / fluid loss, dehydration

B. Patients > 8 years of age or larger than the Broselow tape

PROCEDURE

A. Assess the need for orthostatic vital signs

B. Obtain patient’s pulse and blood pressure while supine

C. Have the patient sit for one minute, then recheck pulse and blood pressure.

D. Orthostatic vital signs are considered positive if:
   1. Pulse rate increases 20-30 bpm; or
   2. Systolic blood pressure decreases by 20-30 mmHg; or
   3. The patient has an increase in dizziness, weakness, nausea, or other symptoms.

E. If vital signs do not change AND the patient does not experience any symptoms, have the patient stand for one minute, then recheck pulse and blood pressure.

F. Document the time, vitals, and patient position on patient care report.

G. Determine appropriate treatment based on protocol.

H. Patient with positive orthostatic vitals should be encouraged to get treated and transported to the hospital.