


CSHCN – INTERNAL PACEMAKER / DEFIBRILLATOR

An **internal pacemaker** is a medical device placed under the skin connected with wires to the heart to regulate the heart rate. An **internal defibrillator** is an electronic device implanted under the skin to monitor the heart rhythm and deliver shocks, as necessary, to treat extremely fast heart rates that originate in the ventricles.

- A. Perform **Initial Treatment / Universal Patient Care Protocol** and follow the proper protocol for medical management based on clinical presentation.
- B. Assess and maintain airway patency.
- C. Check pulse:
 1. If no pulse is present, begin chest compressions and follow the appropriate algorithm.
 2. Determine if the child has a pacemaker or defibrillator:
 - a. The internal pacemaker can easily be felt near the clavicle or in the abdomen in younger children.
 3. If defibrillation or pacing is needed, **DO NOT** place the treatment pads directly over the internal pacemaker or defibrillator generator.
- D. Establish IV/IO access:
 1. Treat shock, as indicated.
- E. Initiate cardiac monitoring.
- F. Try to determine if the cause of the emergency is related to a malfunction of the pacemaker or defibrillator.
- G. Contact **Medical Command** for additional instructions. 
- H. Bring all of the child's medical charts or medical forms that the caregiver may have, the child's "**go bag**" or other similar bag, and any supplies that the caregiver may have.