


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. Treat shock as indicated.
- E. Consider ALS backup.
- 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. The child's medical charts, forms and the "go bag" that the parents may have should accompany the patient.