



EMS System for Metropolitan Oklahoma City and Tulsa 2026 Medical Control Board Treatment Protocols



Approved 9/17/25, Effective 1/15/26, replaces all prior versions

5H – SYNCHRONIZED CARDIOVERSION ADULT & PEDIATRIC

PARAMEDIC

Indication:

Unstable, symptomatic tachycardia (adult heart rate > 150 beats per minute; afebrile pediatric heart rate > 180 beats per minute) AND hemodynamic compromise adult systolic blood pressure <100 mmHg; pediatric systolic blood pressure < (70 + 2x age in years) mmHg.

Contraindications:

1. Stable tachycardia (Treatment per Protocol 5F – Stable Tachycardia)
2. Normal sinus rhythm
3. Bradycardia
4. Ventricular fibrillation/pulseless ventricular tachycardia

Technique (Physio-Control LifePak® 15):

1. Power **ON**. (Figure 1)
2. Attach patient ECG cable and ECG electrodes. ECG electrodes and cable must be used to monitor the ECG when paddles are used for synchronized cardioversion.
3. Select lead with the greatest QRS complex amplitude positive or negative deflection. (Figure 2)
4. Press **SYNC**. The **SYNC MODE** message appears in the message area when **SYNC** is active. (Figure 3)
 - a. **NOTE:** To deactivate **SYNC MODE** when not synchronizing cardioverting, press **SYNC** again.



Figure 1



Figure 2

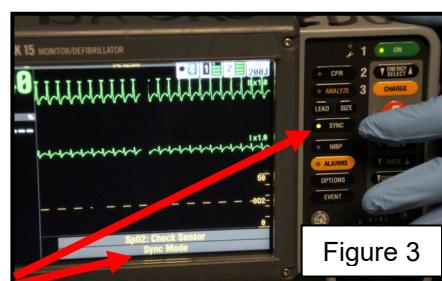


Figure 3



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Protocol 5H: Synchronized Cardioversion, Adult & Pediatric, cont.

Technique (cont):

5. Observe the ECG rhythm. Confirm that a triangle sense marker (▼) appears near the MIDDLE of each QRS complex. (Figure 4)
 - a. If the sense markers **DO NOT** appear or are displayed in the wrong location (**for example on the T – wave**) adjust **ECG SIZE** or select another lead. It is normal for the sense marker location to vary *slightly* on each QRS.
6. Connect the therapy electrodes to the therapy cable and confirm cable connection to the monitor/defibrillator. (Figure 5)
7. Prepare the patient's skin and apply therapy electrodes to the patient in the anterior-posterior chest wall position. (Figure 6)
8. Press **ENERGY SELECT** or rotate the **SPEED DIAL** to select the desired energy. (Figure 7) Per Protocol 5G – Tachycardia – Unstable, for adult synchronized cardioversion, begin at 100 joules energy. If unstable tachydysrhythmia persists, repeat synchronized cardioversion at escalating energy settings of 200 joules, 300 joules, 360 joules. For pediatric synchronized cardioversion, consult on-line medical control for treatment plan and energy settings.
9. Press **CHARGE**. While the monitor/defibrillator is charging a charging bar appears and a ramping tone sounds, indicating the charging energy level. When the monitor/defibrillator is fully charged, the screen displays available energy. (Figure 8)



Figure 4



Figure 5

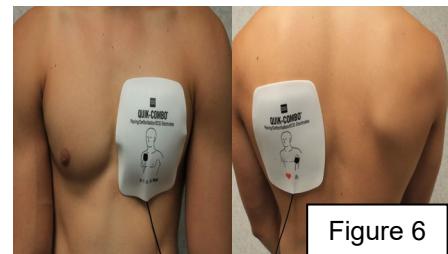


Figure 6



Figure 7

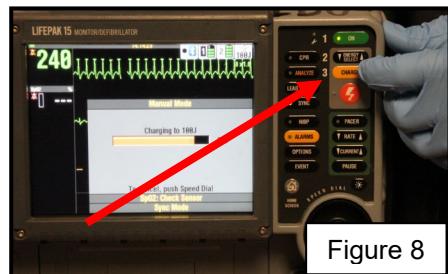


Figure 8



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Protocol 5H: Synchronized Cardioversion, Adult & Pediatric, cont.

Technique (cont):

10. Make certain all personnel, including the operator, stand clear of the patient, bed, and any equipment connected to the patient.
11. Confirm ECG rhythm. Confirm available energy. *Prior to delivering synchronized cardioversion, it is paramount to ensure that the SYNC MODE message continues to appear. Failure to deliver a "synchronized" cardioversion in this setting could cause ventricular fibrillation cardiac arrest in the patient.* (Figure 9)
12. Press and hold the  (shock) button on the monitor/defibrillator until the **ENERGY DELIVERED** message appears on the screen. (Figure 10)
 - a. **NOTE:** To disarm (cancel the charge), press the SPEED DIAL. The energy disarms automatically if shock buttons are not pressed within 60 seconds, or if the energy selection after charging begins.
13. Observe patient and ECG rhythm. Repeat procedure starting from Step 4, if necessary.

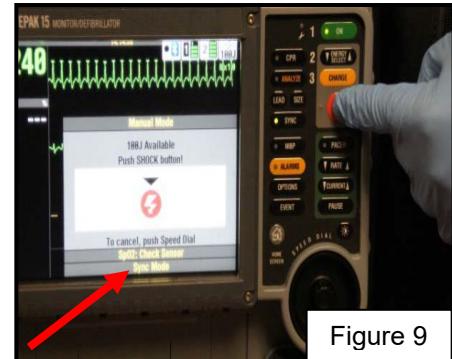


Figure 9

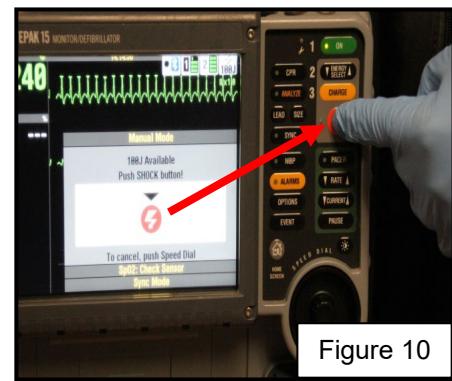


Figure 10