

MEDICAL ADVISORY

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TO:	All paramedics certified by the RPPEO
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As a paramedic, you may be called upon to treat a patient with a left ventricular assist device (LVAD). If they are vital signs absent, then start CPR and treat them like any other cardiac arrest. If they are unconscious but show signs of life, ***even if they are pulseless***, then treat them like any other unconscious patient (intervene as appropriate). Trained family members may be able to provide guidance, which you can follow. LVAD-related emergencies will be rare events that require little change to your practice. If you would like to learn more about LVADs, please take a moment to view the following videos:

- HeartMate II LVAD:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PsHpKbwX1Yg>
- Living with a LVAD:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=djouz093Us&feature=related>