

Denver Health Traumatic Cardiac Arrest Algorithm

Injured Patient
Receiving
CPR

Yes

Signs of Life or
systolic BP <
60mmHg*

No

Blunt Trauma
CPR < 10 min

Penetrating Torso Trauma
(including zone I cervical)
CPR < 15 min

Penetrating Extremity Trauma
(including zone II/III cervical)
CPR < 5 min

No

CPR outside window

Dead*

Cardiac FAST.
Consider
REBOA & CPR

Profound
Refractory
Shock

Yes

Resuscitative Thoracotomy

Cardiac
Activity?

No

Tamponade?

No

Yes

Yes

Cardiac Injury

Yes

Repair Heart

Thoracic
Hemorrhage

Yes

Control

Air Embolism

Yes

Hilar X-clamp

Extrathoracic
Hemorrhage

Yes

SBP < 70,
Apply Aortic
X-clamp

Assess
Viability

OR

*respiratory or
motor effort, electrical
activity, or pupillary
activity



*Remember to call Donor Alliance following Death Pronouncement in the ED