

Emergency Action Card

Post-intubation hypotension

State out loud:

"The patient has developed hypotension"

Action:

If critical features

**Loss of central pulse
Falling ET CO2**

- Consider low flow state or cardiac arrest
- Immediate concurrent management of presumed causes e.g. Hypovolaemia, Tension pneumothorax
- Consider vasopressors/volume replacement

Check:

1 Airway/Breathing

- Check for bilateral chest wall movement
- Ensure ventilator is set to 100% oxygen
- Consider pneumothorax and treat
- Check CO2 trace

2 Circulation

- Check central and peripheral pulses/ECG
- Re-cycle blood pressure cuff
- Replace volume
- In trauma ensure bleeding is controlled

3 Anaesthetic

- Pause sedative infusions/Avoid further boluses

Potential causes

- Hypovolaemia
- Tension pneumothorax
- Myocardial (tamponade / contusion / ischaemia)
- Secondary to positive pressure ventilation and/or drugs administered
- Anaphylaxis
- Bradycardia
- Neurogenic shock
- Monitor error