

The Director of your tertiary emergency department has asked you to review the department's resuscitation guidelines after a recent resuscitation was criticised by senior clinicians present. The focus of the review is to be on the cessation of resuscitation attempts.

1. The Australian Resuscitation Council state that CPR is likely to be futile beyond twenty minutes when four criteria have been met. List these (4 marks)

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2. State five clinical circumstances where prolonged resuscitation attempts may be warranted (5 marks)

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3. End-tidal CO₂ and cardiac ultrasound have been used as adjuncts in the decision to cease resuscitation and are to be included in your guideline review. Complete the table below with appropriate clinical circumstances for use and the findings / values upon which CPR might be ceased (4 marks)

	Clinical Circumstance	Finding / Value
Cardiac Ultrasound		
End-tidal CO ₂		

Marking Schema - Resuscitation Question

1. The following 4 criteria should ideally be met

- no reversible cause
- non shockable rhythm and
- no ROSC before ED arrival or age > 80 years
- non witnessed arrest

2. Prolonged resuscitation attempts in

- poisoning
- asthma
- hypothermia
- pregnancy if post mortem Caesarean section considered
- therapeutic hypothermia has been instituted at the scene

3. End-tidal CO₂ and cardiac ultrasound as adjuncts

- trauma and absent cardiac activity on bedside echocardiography
- 99% mortality if cardiac activity absent
- 70% mortality if cardiac activity present

absent cardiac activity on US and ETCO₂ < 10mmHg after second cycle of ALS
-estimated to be as close to 0% survival