Indications for algorithm:
- Absent brain stem reflexes except assisted respiration on ventilator

Ventilator Auto-Trigger Suspected

Identify Trigger Settings
- Is flow sensitivity set at 2Lpm?
- Is the pressure sensitivity set at 2cmH2O?

Are assisted breaths still present?

Is there excessive condensation in the ventilator circuit?

Drain ventilator circuit condensation
- Consider using heated wire circuit
- Troubleshoot heater/humidity setting

Are assisted breaths still present?

Is there a leak in the ventilator circuit?
- Verify if the Flow-Volume or Pressure-Volume Loop return to baseline during exhalation

Are assisted breaths still present?

Are cardiac oscillations present on the Flow-Time or Pressure-Time waveforms?

Ventilator Circuit Leak is Present
- Check ETT cuff pressure
- Ensure in-line suction catheter is not withdrawn excessively
- Ensure circuit connections are tight
- Replace ventilator circuit
- Check previous chest x-ray for possible pneumothorax or air leak

Are assisted breaths still present?

Problem corrected. Continue to monitor

Auto-trigger may be caused by noise/artifact
- Increase flow sensitivity in 0.5Lpm increments until assisted breaths cease or change pressure sensitivity to -2cmH2O

** Remember all interventions MUST be done by a physician or with a physician’s order**