

Types of Shock

Nursing

Four mechanisms of inadequate perfusion, and the one sign they share.

All four end in inadequate tissue perfusion by different routes.

Type	Mechanism	Typical clue
Hypovolaemic	Not enough volume	Bleeding, vomiting, burns
Cardiogenic	Pump failure	Cardiac history, congestion
Distributive	Vasodilation	Sepsis, anaphylaxis, spinal
Obstructive	Flow blocked	Tension chest, tamponade, clot

Educational reference. Recognition and escalation only. Anaphylaxis and major haemorrhage follow local emergency protocol immediately.