

Adult Basic Life Support Algorithm for Health Care Professionals

Text in cascading boxes describes the actions that a professional should perform in sequence during an adult cardiac arrest. (Note: If there are signs of puberty, treat as an adult.) Arrows guide professionals from one box to the next as they perform the actions. Some boxes have 2 arrows that lead outward, each to a different box depending on the outcome of the most recent action taken. Pathways are linked.

Box 1

Verify scene safety.

Box 2

- Check for responsiveness.
- Shout for nearby help.
- Activate the emergency response system.
- Send someone to get AED/defibrillator.

Box 3

Look for no breathing or only gasping and check pulse (simultaneously).

Is a pulse **definitely** felt within 10 seconds?

If there is normal breathing and a pulse is felt, proceed to [Box 4](#).

If there is abnormal breathing but a pulse is felt, proceed to [Box 5](#).

If there is no breathing or only gasping and a pulse is not felt, proceed to [Box 6](#).

Box 4

Monitor the person until advanced care arrives.

Box 5

- Provide breaths, 1 breath every 6 seconds or 10 breaths per minute.
- Check pulse every 2 minutes; if no pulse, start CPR.
- If suspected opioid overdose, administer opioid antagonist (eg, naloxone) if available.

Box 6

Start CPR

- Perform cycles of 30 compressions and 2 breaths.
- Use the AED/defibrillator as soon as it is available.
- If suspected opioid overdose, consider opioid antagonist (eg, naloxone).

Box 7

AED arrives.

Box 8

Check rhythm. Is the rhythm shockable?

If Yes, the rhythm is shockable, proceed to [Box 9](#).

If No, the rhythm is nonshockable, proceed to [Box 10](#).

Box 9

- Give 1 shock. Resume CPR immediately for 2 minutes (until prompted by the AED/defibrillator to allow rhythm check).
- Continue until advanced life support professionals take over or the person starts to move.

Box 10

- Resume CPR immediately for 2 minutes (until prompted by the AED/defibrillator to allow rhythm check).
- Continue until advanced life support professionals take over or the person starts to move.