

Adult Basic Life Support Algorithm for Healthcare Providers

Text in cascading boxes describes the actions that a provider should perform in sequence during an adult cardiac arrest. Arrows guide providers 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 via mobile device (if appropriate).
- Get an AED and emergency equipment (or send someone to do so).

Box 3

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

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

If the person is breathing normally and has a pulse, proceed to [Box 3a](#).

If the person is not breathing normally but has a pulse, proceed to [Box 3b](#).

If the person is not breathing or is only gasping and no pulse is felt, proceed to [Box 4](#).

Box 3a

Monitor the person until emergency responders arrive.

Box 3b

- Provide rescue breathing, 1 breath every 6 seconds or 10 breaths per minute.
- Check pulse every 2 minutes; if no pulse, start CPR.
- If it is a possible opioid overdose, administer naloxone if available per protocol.

By this time in all scenarios, emergency response system or backup is activated, and AED and emergency equipment are retrieved or someone is retrieving them.

Box 4

Start CPR

- Perform cycles of 30 compressions and 2 breaths.
- Use the AED as soon as it is available.

Box 5

The AED arrives.

Box 6

The AED checks the rhythm. Is the rhythm shockable?

If Yes, the rhythm is shockable, proceed to [Box 7](#).

If No, the rhythm is nonshockable, proceed to [Box 8](#).

Box 7

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

Box 8

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