Pediatric Basic Life Support Algorithm for Healthcare Providers—2 or More Rescuers

Text in cascading boxes describes the actions that 2 or more rescuers should perform in sequence during a pediatric cardiac arrest. Arrows guide the rescuers from one box to the next as they perform the actions. Some boxes have 2 arrows that lead outward, each to a different pathway depending on the outcome of the most recent action taken. Pathways are hyperlinked.

Box 1
Verify scene safety.

Box 2
• Check for responsiveness.
• Shout for nearby help.
• First rescuer remains with the child. Second rescuer activates the emergency response system and retrieves the AED and emergency equipment.

Box 3
Look for no breathing or only gasping and check pulse (simultaneously). Is pulse definitely felt within 10 seconds?
If there is normal breathing and a pulse is felt, proceed to Box 3a.
If there is no normal breathing but a pulse is felt, proceed to Box 3b.
If there is no breathing or there is only gasping and no pulse is felt, proceed to Box 5.

Box 3a
Monitor until emergency responders arrive.

Box 3b
• Provide rescue breathing, 1 breath every 2 to 3 seconds, or about 20 to 30 breaths per minute.
• Assess pulse rate for no more than 10 seconds. Proceed to Box 4.

Box 4
Is heart rate less than 60 per minute with signs of poor perfusion?
If Yes, proceed to Box 4a.
If No, proceed to Box 4b.

Box 4a
Start CPR.

Box 4b
• Continue rescue breathing; check pulse about every 2 minutes.
• If no pulse, start CPR.

Box 5
Start CPR
• First rescuer performs cycles of 30 compressions and 2 breaths.
• When second rescuer returns, perform cycles of 15 compressions and 2 breaths.
• Use the AED as soon as it is available. Proceed to Box 6.

Box 6
Check rhythm. Is it a shockable rhythm?
If Yes, it is shockable, proceed to Box 7.
If No, it is nonshockable, proceed to Box 8.

Box 7
• Give 1 shock. Resume CPR immediately for 2 minutes (until prompted by the AED to allow a rhythm check).
• Continue until advanced life support providers take over or the child starts to move. Return to Box 6, if necessary.

Box 8
• Resume CPR immediately for 2 minutes (until prompted by the AED to allow a rhythm check).
• Continue until advanced life support providers take over or the child starts to move. Return to Box 6, if necessary.