

SFHCHS36

Provide basic life support



Overview

This standard covers preparing for and providing basic life support. Note that this standard does not include the use of automated external defibrillators.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

SFHCHS36

Provide basic life support

Performance criteria

- You must be able to:*
- P1 accurately and promptly confirm that the individual's circulation and breathing has stopped and establish the need for basic life support
 - P2 ensure your actions comply at all times with:
 - P2.1 established protocols and guidelines
 - P2.2 evidence based best practice
 - P2.3 your own scope of practice
 - P2.4 health and safety and standard precautions for infection prevention and control
 - P2.5 legislation
 - P3 seek additional specialist support at the earliest opportunity
 - P4 check and confirm that the individual is not breathing unaided and that resuscitation is not contraindicated
 - P5 use relevant, safe techniques for clearing and opening the individual's airway where appropriate
 - P6 position the individual and yourself appropriately to apply external chest compression and/or ventilation safely and effectively taking account of:
 - P6.1 the individual's condition
 - P6.2 the need for a sufficiently firm base to facilitate external chest compression
 - P6.3 the potential need to maintain compressions and ventilation for a prolonged period
 - P7 use the appropriate ratio when alternating compressions with ventilation and comply with the correct rates and depths of each, ensuring compression is applied on the correct site of the individual's chest
 - P8 monitor and evaluate the individual's respiratory function and the effectiveness of compressions and ventilation, responding promptly and appropriately to achieve the best possible outcome for the individual
 - P9 cease the application of any techniques when the individual regains airway and circulation control and place the individual in an appropriate position to enable continued care according to condition
 - P10 continue ventilation and compressions until:
 - P10.1 the individual shows clear signs of unaided circulation and adequate spontaneous breathing is established
 - P10.2 the individual is handed over to the care of others
 - P10.3 you become exhausted
 - P10.4 death is confirmed by an authorised practitioner
 - P11 accurately and clearly report the actions you have taken, and the duration, when handing over to a specialist
 - P12 reinstate equipment and materials to working status after use

SFHCHS36

Provide basic life support

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the anatomy of the respiratory system
- K2 the priorities in life support (ABC)
- K3 the time frame within which assessment of individual needs should be carried out and the life support response initiated in order to maximise an individual's chance of survival
- K4 the information which may need to be recorded following the application of basic life support
- K5 the clinical signs of airway obstruction
- K6 what to do in the event of foreign body obstruction of an individual's airway
- K7 the differences in techniques needed for ensuring an open airway on different types of individual
- K8 the factors to be taken into account in determining the technique that will lead to the best possible outcome for the individual
- K9 why the head tilt techniques should not be used where neck or spinal injury is suspected
- K10 the different techniques used to ventilate an individual and when each should be used
- K11 the ventilation ratio and rate for different types of individual and conditions
- K12 the importance to outcome of the positioning of the individual and the person applying basic life support, including the specific positioning needs of pregnant women in the third trimester
- K13 the observations to be carried out to identify adequate oxygenation in different types of individual
- K14 the rate and depth of compressions needed for different types of individual
- K15 the compression to ventilation ratio in different types of individual
- K16 the procedure to establish the correct hand/finger placement for applying external chest compression
- K17 the differences between certification and diagnosis of death in accordance with best practice, and who is authorised to carry out these activities
- K18 personal safety as well as general health and safety, and the range of situations and responses
- K19 why a firm base is needed for chest compressions, and what action to take when one is not available
- K20 the different methods of chest thrusts and back slaps to use in the cases of children/young people and adults
- K21 the compression to ventilation ratio in one and two person Basic Life Support

SFHCHS36

Provide basic life support

- K22 the current European and National legislation, national guidelines, organisational policies and protocols in accordance with Clinical/Corporate Governance which affect your work practice in relation to providing basic life support
- K23 your responsibilities and accountability in relation to the current European and National legislation, national guidelines and local policies and protocols and Clinical/Corporate Governance
- K24 the duty to report any acts or omissions in care that could be detrimental to yourself, other individuals or your employer
- K25 the ethics concerning consent and confidentiality, and the tensions which may exist between an individual's rights and the organisation's responsibility to individuals
- K26 the importance of gaining assent from individuals who lack capacity to consent

SFHCHS36

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Additional Information

External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB7 Interventions and treatments

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Suite Clinical Health Skills

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