

SFHEC18

Perform automated external defibrillation



Overview

This standard covers preparing for and performing external defibrillation on an individual in order to establish an effective cardiac rhythm. This covers setting up and operating automated external defibrillation equipment.

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

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 check and accurately confirm the status of the individual's airway, breathing and circulation
- P2 establish the need for defibrillation based on best practice
- P3 promptly establish an open airway and ventilate the individual's lungs with the highest possible concentration of oxygen given the skills and equipment available at the time
- P4 promptly seek additional assistance at the earliest opportunity without compromising the outcome for the individual
- P5 initiate other means of establishing cardiac output prior to defibrillation
- P6 comply accurately with protocols for identifying and eliminating factors which would contraindicate the application of defibrillation
- P7 attempt defibrillation only where it is indicated as essential for life support
- P8 check and confirm that the automated equipment is fit for purpose and ready for use
- P9 prepare the individual so that defibrillation can be carried out, maintaining their privacy and dignity as far as possible within the context and applying electrodes, pads and paddles for optimum efficacy
- P10 remove any oxygenating equipment prior to initiating defibrillation
- P11 apply appropriate health, safety and infection control precautions throughout
- P12 apply the defibrillation within the optimum time frame in line with:
 - P12.1 evidence based practice
 - P12.2 your own scope of practice
 - P12.3 legislation
- P13 continue defibrillation attempts, until this is counter-indicated:
 - P13.1 by readouts on the equipment
 - P13.2 by a suitably qualified practitioner
- P14 correctly apply basic life support appropriate to the individual's needs in the intervals between defibrillation attempts as indicated by the A.E.D
- P15 protect the individual's privacy and dignity throughout
- P16 ensure your safety and that of the individual, staff and others such as family members or carers as appropriate to the situation
- P17 record and report the details of the interventions given accurately, clearly and in line with organisational protocols
- P18 reinstate equipment and materials to working status after use

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the legislation regarding confidentiality and information sharing, the provision of services, the rights of the individual, protection issues, anti-discriminatory practice, informed consent, relevant mental health legislation and care programme approach
- K2 the importance of gaining assent from individuals who lack capacity to consent
- K3 how to interpret and apply legislation to the work being undertaken
- K4 the ethics concerning consent and confidentiality, and the tensions which may exist between an individual's rights and the organisation's responsibility to individuals
- K5 the policy and procedures for summoning assistance for prolonged/extended resuscitation
- K6 the policy and procedures for recording information on the provision of basic life support and defibrillation and the details which should be recorded
- K7 the priorities in life support
- K8 the time frame within which assessment of individual needs should be carried out and the resuscitation response initiated Working understanding of the other means of resuscitation which may be applied while preparation is underway to use a defibrillator
- K9 the content of the Paediatric and Adult Life Support Guidelines as issued by the UK Resuscitation Council
- K10 the differences in techniques needed for conducting basic life support on different types of individual
- K11 the implications of pacemakers for defibrillation and basic life support
- K12 the measures to be taken to ensure health and safety, infection control and the prevention of contamination
- K13 the ventilation : compression ratio and rate for different types of individual
- K14 the importance to outcome of applying basic life support of the positioning of the individual and the practitioner
- K15 the observations to be carried out to identify adequate oxygenation in different types of individual
- K16 the procedure to establish the correct hand/finger placement for applying external chest compression
- K17 the procedures needed for applying the electrodes and paddles of automated defibrillators
- K18 the preparations needed to ensure that defibrillation has the maximum chance of success, including when and why it is necessary to adjust/remove an individual's clothing

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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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