

Summary of High-Quality CPR Components for BLS Providers



Component	Adults and adolescents	Children (age 1 year to puberty)	Infants (age less than 1 year, excluding newborns)
Verifying scene safety	Make sure the environment is safe for rescuers and victim		
Recognizing cardiac arrest	Check for responsiveness No breathing or only gasping (i.e., no normal breathing) No definite pulse felt within 10 seconds (Breathing and pulse check can be performed simultaneously in less than 10 seconds)		
Activating emergency response system	If a mobile device is available, phone emergency medical services (9-1-1)		
	If you are alone with no mobile phone, leave the victim to activate the emergency response system and get the AED before beginning CPR Otherwise, send someone and begin CPR immediately; use the AED as soon as it is available	Witnessed collapse Follow steps for adults and adolescents on the left Unwitnessed collapse Give 2 minutes of CPR Leave the victim to activate the emergency response system and get the AED Return to the child or infant and resume CPR; use the AED as soon as it is available	
Compression-ventilation ratio without advanced airway	1 or 2 rescuers 30:2	1 rescuer 30:2 2 or more rescuers 15:2	
Compression-ventilation ratio with advanced airway	Continuous compressions at a rate of 100-120/min Give 1 breath every 6 seconds (10 breaths/min)	Continuous compressions at a rate of 100-120/min Give 1 breath every 2-3 seconds (20-30 breaths/min)	
Compression rate	100-120/min		
Compression depth	At least 5 cm (2 inches)*	At least one third AP diameter of chest Approximately 5 cm (2 inches)	At least one third AP diameter of chest Approximately 4 cm (1½ inches)
Hand placement	2 hands on the lower half of the breastbone (sternum)	2 hands or 1 hand (optional for very small child) on the lower half of the breastbone (sternum)	1 rescuer 2 fingers or 2 thumbs in the centre of the chest, just below the nipple line 2 or more rescuers 2 thumb-encircling hands in the centre of the chest, just below the nipple line If the rescuer is unable to achieve the recommended depth, it may be reasonable to use the heel of one hand
Chest recoil	Allow complete recoil of chest after each compression; do not lean on the chest after each compression		
Minimizing interruptions	Limit interruptions in chest compressions to less than 10 seconds with a CCF goal of greater than 80%		

*Compression depth should be no more than 6 cm (2.4 inches).

Abbreviations: AED, automated external defibrillator; AP, anteroposterior; CCF, chest compression fraction; CPR, cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

© 2020 American Heart Association