BLS Healthcare Provider
Adult Cardiac Arrest Algorithm—2015 Update

Verify scene safety.

Victim is unresponsive.
Shout for nearby help.
Activate emergency response system via mobile device (if appropriate).
Get AED and emergency equipment (or send someone to do so).

No normal breathing, has pulse

Normal breathing, has pulse

Monitor until emergency responders arrive.

Look for no breathing or only gasping and check pulse (simultaneously). Is pulse definitely felt within 10 seconds?

No breathing or only gasping, no pulse

Provide rescue breathing: 1 breath every 5-6 seconds, or about 10-12 breaths/min.
• Activate emergency response system (if not already done) after 2 minutes.
• Continue rescue breathing; check pulse about every 2 minutes. If no pulse, begin CPR (go to “CPR” box).
• If 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.

CPR
Begin cycles of 30 compressions and 2 breaths. Use AED as soon as it is available.

AED arrives.

Check rhythm.
Shockable rhythm?

Yes, shockable
Give 1 shock. Resume CPR immediately for about 2 minutes (until prompted by AED to allow rhythm check). Continue until ALS providers take over or victim starts to move.

No, nonshockable
Resume CPR immediately for about 2 minutes (until prompted by AED to allow rhythm check). Continue until ALS providers take over or victim starts to move.

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