Opioid-Associated Life-Threatening Emergency (Adult) Algorithm

Assess and activate.
Check for unresponsiveness and call for nearby help. Send someone to call 9-1-1 and get AED and naloxone. Observe for breathing vs no breathing or only gasping.

Begin CPR.
If victim is unresponsive with no breathing or only gasping, begin CPR.*
If alone, perform CPR for about 2 minutes before leaving to phone 9-1-1 and get naloxone and AED.

Administer naloxone.
Give naloxone as soon as it is available. 2 mg intranasal or 0.4 mg intramuscular. May repeat after 4 minutes.

Does the person respond?
At any time, does the person move purposefully, breathe regularly, moan, or otherwise respond?

Yes
Stimulate and reassess.
Continue to check responsiveness and breathing until advanced help arrives. If the person stops responding, begin CPR and repeat naloxone.

No
Continue CPR and use AED as soon as it is available.
Continue until the person responds or until advanced help arrives.

*CPR technique based on rescuer’s level of training.

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