BLS Healthcare Provider
Pediatric Cardiac Arrest Algorithm for the Single Rescuer

Verify scene safety.

Victim is unresponsive. Shout for nearby help. Activate emergency response system via mobile device (if appropriate).

Witnessed sudden collapse?

Yes

Activate emergency response system (if not already done). Return to victim and monitor until emergency responders arrive.

No

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

Yes, normal breathing, has pulse

No normal breathing, has pulse

No breathing or only gasping, no pulse

Provide rescue breathing: 1 breath every 3-5 seconds, or about 12-20 breaths/min.
• Add compressions if pulse remains ≤60/min with signs of poor perfusion.
• 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).

CPR

1 rescuer: Begin cycles of 30 compressions and 2 breaths. (Use 15:2 ratio if second rescuer arrives.) Use AED as soon as it is available.

After about 2 minutes, if still alone, activate emergency response system and retrieve AED (if not already done).

AED analyzes 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.

Normal breathing, has pulse

Activate emergency response system (if not already done), and retrieve AED/defibrillator.

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