



Using a Defibrillator

Skill Sheet

BLS	OT	AM	FR	EMR	AFA	MAFA
✓			✓	✓	✓	✓

Steps

Ensure you are always wearing proper PPE before performing the skill.

1. Activate the defibrillator immediately to allow the device to start recording time and to begin analyzing the patient as quickly as possible.
2. Expose and prepare the patient's chest.
3. Select the correct size of defibrillator pads.
4. Attach the pads to the patient's chest, as directed by the defibrillator's manufacturer.
5. Pause CPR to allow the defibrillator to analyze the patient's heart rhythm. Do not touch the patient or the defibrillator during this time. The defibrillator will notify you when the analysis is complete.
6. Follow the defibrillator's prompts.
7. Continue chest compressions while the defibrillator charges in preparation to deliver a shock.
8. Continue cycles of CPR and defibrillation until the person shows signs of recovery (i.e., speaking, coughing, moving purposefully, or opening the eyes) and starts to breathe normally.

Organizational/local protocol for _____ :

Skill Notes

- The automated external defibrillator (AED) is the most common defibrillator, but there are many others that vary slightly in use. It is important that you know and follow the manufacturer's instructions for proper use and maintenance of your defibrillator.
- Use a defibrillator in combination with CPR for patients in cardiac arrest.
- If two responders are present, one should begin CPR while the second prepares the defibrillator and applies the pads to the patient.
- Typically, one pad is placed on the upper right side of the chest and the other on the lower left side with a minimum of 2.5 cm (1 in.) of space between them.
- If the patient's chest is too small to allow at least 2.5 cm (1 in.) of space between the pads, place one on the front of the patient's chest (anterior) and one on the back (posterior).