



Defibrillation Manual

Clinical Indications:



- Cardiac arrest with ventricular fibrillation or pulseless ventricular tachycardia

Procedure:

1. Clinically confirm the diagnosis of cardiac arrest and identify the need for defibrillation.
2. After application of an appropriate conductive agent if needed, apply defibrillation paddles or hands free pads to the patient's chest in the proper position (right of sternum at 2nd ICS and anterior axillary line at 5th ICS).
3. Set the appropriate energy level (adult - 200, 300, 360 joules; peds - 2 joules/kg initially with repeat at 4 joules/kg) for monophasic devices.
4. Charge the defibrillator to the selected energy level.
5. Assure proper placement of the paddles or pads.
6. Assure proper contact by applying 25 pounds of pressure on each paddle or make sure fast patch pads have good skin contact.
7. **Assertively state, "CLEAR" and visualize that no one, including yourself, is in contact with the patient.**
8. Deliver the countershock by depressing the discharge button(s) when using paddles, or depress the **shock button** for hands free operation.
9. Assess the patient's response.
10. Document the dysrhythmia and the response to defibrillation with ECG strips on/with the PCR.
11. Repeat the procedure as indicated by patient response and ECG rhythm.

Certification Requirements:

- Maintain knowledge of the indications, contraindications, technique, and possible complications of the procedure. Assessment of this knowledge may be accomplished via quality assurance mechanisms, classroom demonstrations, skills stations, or other mechanisms as deemed appropriate by the local EMS System. Assessment should include direct observation at least once per certification cycle.