



## Early Defibrillation Response Protocol

The following early defibrillation response protocol is provided as a sample. It is required that your facility's trained responders follow the steps established by that protocol when responding to a victim of sudden cardiac arrest. The protocol should be reviewed on an annual basis, and revisions to the protocol made as necessary.

### Conduct an initial assessment:

- ❑ Assess for scene safety; use universal precautions.
- ❑ Assess patient for unresponsiveness.
- ❑ If unresponsive, activate EMS and in-house emergency plan. Call 911 or designated number: \_\_\_\_\_ . **Call for defibrillator.**

### Assess breathing

- ❑ Open airway
- ❑ Look, listen and feel for breathing
- ❑ If breathing is absent, deliver two rescue breaths

### Assess circulation

- ❑ If signs of circulation are absent, provide CPR. Continue CPR until defibrillator arrives.

### Begin defibrillation treatment

- ❑ As soon as the defibrillator is available, turn it on and follow the prompts. If the patient is an infant or child that is less than 8 years old or 55 pounds, use Infant/Child defibrillator pads if available.
- ❑ Shave chest with razor if indicated. Discard razor in a safe manner. Wipe chest if it is wet.
- ❑ Apply defibrillation pads. Look at the icons on the self-adhesive defibrillation pads, peel one pad at a time and place it as shown in its illustration. Ensure pads are making good contact with the patient's chest. Do not place the pads over the nipple, medication patches, or visible implanted devices.
- ❑ Deliver a shock to the patient when advised by the defibrillator, after first clearing the patient area. Administer additional shocks as prompted by the defibrillator, until it advises no shock or has delivered a series of three consecutive shocks and prompts the responder to check the patient.
- ❑ When advised by the defibrillator, check the patient's airway, breathing, and signs of circulation and initiate CPR if circulation is absent.



- ❑ Continue to perform CPR until otherwise prompted by the defibrillator or EMS personnel.
- ❑ Continue to follow the defibrillator prompts until EMS arrives.

### **When EMS arrives**

Responders working on the victim should document and communicate important information to the EMS provider, such as:

- ❑ Victim's name
- ❑ Known medical problems, allergies or medical history
- ❑ Time the victim was found
- ❑ Initial and current condition of the victim
- ❑ Information about the defibrillator's operation:
  - ❑ Number of shocks delivered
  - ❑ Length of time defibrillator has been on
- ❑ Assist as requested by EMS providers

### **Post-Use Procedure**

- ❑ Take the defibrillator and the Defibrillation Incident Report to the Early Defibrillation Program Coordinator within 24 hours post-event for downloading data from internal memory.
- ❑ Check the defibrillator and replace any used supplies as soon as possible following the event so that the defibrillator may be returned to service. Perform the after-patient-use maintenance on the defibrillator.
- ❑ Early Defibrillation Program Coordinator: conduct employee incident debriefing, as needed.
- ❑ Early Defibrillation Program Coordinator: complete the incident follow-up report and forward to Medical Director.

### **Defibrillator Maintenance after Each Patient Use**

- ❑ Inspect the exterior, pads connector port or pads cartridge well for dirt or contamination.
- ❑ Check supplies, accessories and spares for expiration dates and damage.
- ❑ Check operation of the defibrillator by removing and reinstalling the battery and running a battery insertion test.
- ❑ Download data from defibrillator to a PC then erase the defibrillator memory to ensure adequate capacity for recording data when next used.



## Early Defibrillation Response Protocol Flow Chart

