

# aha cpr cheat sheet 2020

## AHA CPR Cheat Sheet 2020

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is a lifesaving technique used in emergencies when someone's heartbeat or breathing has stopped. The American Heart Association (AHA) plays a crucial role in providing guidelines and resources to help both healthcare professionals and laypersons effectively perform CPR. In 2020, the AHA updated its CPR guidelines, emphasizing the importance of high-quality chest compressions and the integration of advanced techniques. This article will provide a comprehensive overview of the AHA CPR Cheat Sheet for 2020, detailing the essential components of CPR, the steps involved, and additional considerations.

## Understanding CPR

CPR is a critical skill that can significantly increase the chances of survival for a person experiencing cardiac arrest. It involves a combination of chest compressions and rescue breaths, aimed at maintaining blood circulation and oxygenation until professional medical help arrives.

## The Importance of CPR

- Immediate Response: CPR can double or triple a victim's chance of survival if performed promptly.
- Preservation of Brain Function: Effective CPR helps maintain blood flow to the brain and vital organs, reducing the risk of permanent damage.
- Community Awareness: Widespread knowledge of CPR can lead to more bystanders taking action in emergencies.

## AHA CPR Guidelines 2020 Overview

The AHA updates its guidelines every five years, with the 2020 guidelines focusing on optimizing the quality of CPR. Key areas of emphasis include:

- High-Quality Compressions: Ensuring adequate depth, rate, and minimal interruptions.
- Early Defibrillation: The importance of using an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) as soon as one is available.
- Minimizing Rescue Breaths: For untrained bystanders, hands-only CPR is recommended; however, trained individuals should still perform rescue breaths.

## Key Components of CPR

1. Recognition of Cardiac Arrest:
  - Look for unresponsiveness and abnormal breathing (e.g., gasping).
  - If the person is unresponsive and not breathing normally, initiate CPR.

## 2. Call for Help:

- Call 911 or have someone else call while you start CPR.
- If available, retrieve an AED.

## 3. Positioning:

- Place the person on their back on a firm, flat surface.

## 4. Compressions:

- Kneel beside the person and place the heel of one hand on the center of the chest, with the other hand on top.
- Keep your arms straight and use your body weight to compress the chest at least 2 inches deep at a rate of 100-120 compressions per minute.
- Allow full chest recoil between compressions.

## 5. Rescue Breaths (for trained individuals):

- After 30 compressions, give 2 rescue breaths.
- Use a barrier device if available.
- Each breath should take about 1 second, and you should see the chest rise.

## 6. Continue CPR:

- Repeat cycles of 30 compressions and 2 breaths until emergency personnel arrive or an AED becomes available.
- If using an AED, apply the pads as soon as possible and follow the device's prompts.

# Hands-Only CPR

The AHA recommends that untrained bystanders perform Hands-Only CPR in cases of adult cardiac arrest. This method eliminates the need for rescue breaths, focusing solely on chest compressions.

## Steps for Hands-Only CPR

1. Call for Help: Call 911 or have someone else do it.
2. Position the Person: Lay the person flat on their back on a firm surface.
3. Begin Compressions:
  - Place your hands on the chest and push hard and fast (100-120 compressions per minute).
  - Push to a depth of at least 2 inches.
4. Continue Until Help Arrives: Keep performing compressions until emergency services arrive or the person shows signs of life.

## Using an AED

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) are devices that can help restore a normal heart rhythm during cardiac arrest. They are designed for use by both laypersons and professionals.

## Steps for Using an AED

1. Turn on the AED: Open the AED and turn it on; it will provide voice prompts.
2. Expose the Chest: Remove clothing and wipe the chest dry if necessary.
3. Apply Pads: Place the pads on the bare chest as indicated:
  - One pad on the upper right chest.
  - The other pad on the lower left chest.
4. Follow Prompts: The AED will analyze the heart rhythm and may instruct you to deliver a shock.
5. Clear the Area: Ensure no one is touching the person during the shock.
6. Continue CPR: After the shock is delivered (if advised), continue CPR until emergency services arrive.

## Special Considerations

While the fundamental principles of CPR apply to most situations, certain populations and circumstances may require adjustments.

### CPR for Children and Infants

- Children (1 year to puberty):
  - Use one hand for compressions if you can achieve adequate depth.
  - Compression depth should be about 2 inches.
  - Give rescue breaths at a ratio of 30 compressions to 2 breaths.
- Infants (under 1 year):
  - Use two fingers for compressions, at a depth of about 1.5 inches.
  - The compression-to-breath ratio is the same as for children.

### Choking and CPR

If a person is unresponsive due to choking, perform the following steps:

1. Check for an Obstruction: Open the mouth and look for visible obstructions.
2. Begin CPR: If the obstruction is not visible, start CPR immediately. Each time you open the airway for breaths, check for an obstruction.
3. Continue until Help Arrives: Do not hesitate to call for emergency help.

## Conclusion

The AHA CPR Cheat Sheet 2020 serves as a vital resource for anyone looking to understand and perform CPR effectively. By following these guidelines, individuals can be better prepared to respond to cardiac emergencies, potentially saving lives. Remember, the key to effective CPR is quick action, high-quality compressions, and a willingness to help. Regular training and refreshers on CPR techniques can help ensure that this life-saving skill is always at the forefront of our minds.

# **Frequently Asked Questions**

## **What is the AHA CPR Cheat Sheet 2020?**

The AHA CPR Cheat Sheet 2020 is a quick reference guide that summarizes the key steps and guidelines for performing CPR effectively, based on the latest recommendations from the American Heart Association.

## **What are the key steps in adult CPR according to the AHA 2020 guidelines?**

The key steps for adult CPR include: 1) Call 911 or activate emergency response; 2) Check for responsiveness; 3) Assess breathing; 4) Perform chest compressions at a rate of 100-120 compressions per minute; 5) Provide rescue breaths if trained.

## **How does the AHA 2020 CPR Cheat Sheet address the use of AEDs?**

The AHA 2020 CPR Cheat Sheet emphasizes the importance of using an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) as soon as one is available, following the CPR steps, and that AEDs are safe to use on adults and children.

## **What is the compression-to-breath ratio for CPR in adults according to the AHA 2020?**

The compression-to-breath ratio for CPR in adults is 30:2, meaning 30 chest compressions followed by 2 rescue breaths.

## **Are hands-only CPR techniques recommended in the AHA 2020 guidelines?**

Yes, the AHA 2020 guidelines recommend hands-only CPR (chest compressions without rescue breaths) for untrained bystanders and in situations where rescue breaths are not feasible.

## **What is the recommended depth for chest compressions for adults in the AHA 2020 guidelines?**

The recommended depth for chest compressions in adults is at least 2 inches (5 cm) but not more than 2.4 inches (6 cm).

## **How often should rescuers switch roles during CPR according to the AHA 2020?**

Rescuers should switch roles every 2 minutes or after 5 cycles of CPR to avoid fatigue and maintain effective compressions.

## **What should rescuers do if the victim starts to**

## **breathe normally during CPR?**

If the victim starts to breathe normally, rescuers should place them in the recovery position and monitor their breathing until emergency medical services arrive.

## **What precautions does the AHA 2020 recommend regarding COVID-19 during CPR?**

The AHA 2020 guidelines recommend wearing personal protective equipment, if available, and minimizing the risk of aerosol generation during CPR, such as avoiding mouth-to-mouth rescue breaths in suspected COVID-19 cases.

## **Is the AHA CPR Cheat Sheet 2020 applicable for pediatric patients?**

Yes, the AHA CPR Cheat Sheet 2020 includes specific modifications for pediatric CPR, including different compression depths and ratios, as well as considerations for using AEDs on children.

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