

Resuscitation of COVID-19 patients

1

Recognise cardiac arrest. Look for the absence of signs of life and normal breathing. Feel for a carotid pulse if trained to do so. Do not listen or feel for breathing by placing your ear and cheek close to the patient's mouth. If there are any doubts about the diagnosis of cardiac arrest, the default position is to start chest compressions until help arrives. When calling 2222, state the risk of COVID 19.

2

Staff require a gown, eye protection, gloves and FFP3 mask before starting chest compressions . Start compression-only CPR and monitor the patient's cardiac arrest rhythm as soon as possible. If the patient is already receiving supplemental oxygen therapy using a face mask, leave the mask on the patient's face during chest compressions as this may limit aerosol spread. Restrict the number of staff in the room (if a single room). Allocate a gatekeeper to do this.

3

Defibrillate shockable rhythms rapidly - the early restoration of circulation may prevent the need for airway and ventilatory support.

4

Full Aerosol Generating Procedure PPE must be worn by all members of the resuscitation/emergency team before entering the room. No chest compressions or airway procedures such as those detailed below should be undertaken without full AGP PPE.

5

Airway interventions must be carried out by experienced individuals. Individuals should use only the airway skills (e.g. bag-mask ventilation) for which they have received training. Tracheal intubation or SGA insertion must only be attempted by individuals who are experienced and competent in this procedure.

6

Identify and treat any reversible causes (e.g. severe hypoxaemia) before considering stopping CPR. Discussion should be maintained throughout the resuscitation event and early planning of the post resuscitation phase undertaken. Contact senior help and gain advice from critical care partners as part of the planning.

7

Remove PPE safely to avoid self-contamination. Follow doffing procedure for removal of PPE