

Common Participant Skill Errors

Checking a Person Who Appears Unresponsive

- Failing to check the scene for safety
- Failing to call 9-1-1 and get equipment or tell someone to do so
- Failing to perform the shout-tap-shout sequence

Giving CPR to Adults

Giving Chest Compressions

- Giving compressions that are too shallow or too deep
- Interrupting compressions for too long or too frequently
- Incorrectly positioning the hands too low or too high
- Failing to use own weight to help with compressions by being over the center of the person's chest with own arms locked
- Failing to allow the chest to return to its normal position after each compression or giving compressions at an inappropriate rate

Giving Breaths

- Leaning in toward the chest, which closes the airway
- Not properly pinching the nose and sealing the mouth if using a face shield; not properly sealing the pocket mask
- Using an improperly sized mask for the person

Giving CPR Cycles

- Interrupting chest compressions for 10 seconds or more

Using an AED for Adults

- Plugging the AED pad connector cable into the AED before placing the pads on the chest (causing the AED to start analyzing before the pads are placed)
- Attaching the AED pads in the incorrect positions on the chest
- Touching the person while the AED is analyzing the rhythm because touching the person could adversely affect the analysis
- Touching the person while the AED is delivering a shock because anyone touching the person could also receive a shock
- Interrupting chest compressions for longer than 10 seconds

Giving CPR to Children

Giving Compressions

- Giving compressions that are too shallow or too deep
- Interrupting chest compressions for too long or too frequently
- Incorrectly positioning the hands too low or too high
- Failing to use own weight to help with compressions by being over the center of the child's chest with own arms locked
- Failing to allow the chest to return to its normal position after each compression or giving compressions at an inappropriate rate

Giving Breaths

- Leaning in toward the chest, which closes the airway
- Not properly pinching the nose and sealing the mouth if using a face shield; not properly sealing the pocket mask
- Using an improperly sized mask for the child

Giving CPR Cycles

- Interrupting chest compressions for 10 seconds or more

Giving CPR to Infants

Giving Compressions

- Giving compressions that are too shallow or too deep
- Interrupting chest compressions for too long or too frequently
- Incorrectly positioning the thumbs too low or too high
- Failing to allow the chest to return to its normal position after each compression or giving compressions at an inappropriate rate

Giving Breaths

- Leaning in toward the chest, which closes the airway
- Not properly sealing the nose and mouth if using a face shield; not properly sealing the pocket mask
- Using an improperly sized mask for the infant

Giving CPR Cycles

- Interrupting chest compressions for 10 seconds or more

Using an AED for Children and Infants

- Plugging the AED pad connector cable into the AED before placing the pads on the chest (causing the AED to start analyzing before the pads are placed)
- Attaching the AED pads in the incorrect positions on the chest
- Touching the child or infant while the AED is analyzing the rhythm because touching them could adversely affect the analysis
- Touching the child or infant while the AED is delivering a shock because anyone touching them could also receive a shock
- Interrupting chest compressions for longer than 10 seconds

Giving Back Blows and Abdominal Thrusts to Adults and Children

- Not properly positioning the hands during back blows
- Not placing one foot in between the feet of the choking person when giving abdominal thrusts
- Not using the thumb side of the fist for abdominal thrusts
- Placing the fist too high when giving abdominal thrusts

Giving Back Blows and Chest Thrusts to Infants

- Not properly positioning the infant for back blows with the infant's head face-down and lower than their body
- Not properly supporting the infant's head and neck during back blows
- Covering the infant's mouth when supporting the head during back blows
- Not using the heel of hand to deliver back blows
- Not delivering 5 back blows between the infant's shoulder blades
- Not properly positioning the infant for chest thrusts with the infant's head face-up and lower than their body
- Not properly supporting the infant's head and neck during chest thrusts
- Not placing two fingers in the center of the infant's chest just below the nipple line
- Placing the two fingers horizontally instead of vertically in the center of the infant's chest
- Not delivering 5 chest thrusts about 1½ inches deep

Caring for a Person Experiencing a Sudden Illness

- Not calling 9-1-1 and not getting the AED and first aid kit
- Not obtaining consent
- Not using PPE
- Not asking all of the SAM questions
- Not identifying appropriate care
- Not doing a focused check

Using Direct Pressure to Control Life-Threatening Bleeding

- Not using both hands stacked on one another to apply direct pressure
- Not locking the elbows when applying direct pressure
- Not checking for circulation beyond the injury before and after bandaging