

C1 Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

(CPR using a defibrillator)

Extra Care Housing Service	Support at Home Service	OA Day Services	Residential Services	DMH Day Services	DMH Supported Living Services	Community Equipment Services	Shared Lives Service
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Policy

To ensure all staff are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities when using a defibrillator.

Procedure

1. For those services that are equipped with a defibrillator, this will include all residential homes which are now equipped with a defibrillator which has been registered with the North West Ambulance Service Headquarters.
2. If you come across someone who is unconscious, unresponsive, not breathing or not breathing normally, they are in cardiac arrest and the emergency services must be telephoned immediately on 999.
3. If there is someone with you who can help, one of you commence CPR while the other phones 999 until the emergency operator is contacted.
4. Explain to the controller the circumstances you are in, e.g. if the individual is on the floor, bed, had collapsed in front of you. Also try to explain the environment e.g. I'm in the individuals house in the bedroom or lounge area. Let the operator know if you are on your own or there is someone else with you that can help. Explain the symptoms and that there is a defibrillator in the home, follow their instructions. They must be informed if there is a DNACPR (Do not attempt cardiopulmonary resuscitation) in place if known. Start CPR to keep the blood flowing to the brain and around the body.
5. If you are on your own, do not interrupt the CPR to go and get a defibrillator. If it is possible, send someone else to find one.

To use a defibrillator

1. To use a defibrillator, follow these simple steps:
 - Step 1 - Turn the defibrillator on by pressing the green button and follow its instructions.
 - Step 2 - Peel off the sticky pads and attach them to the patient's skin, one on each side of the chest, as shown in the picture on the defibrillator.
 - Step 3 - Once the pads have been attached, stop CPR and don't touch the patient. The defibrillator will then analyse the patient's heart rhythm.
 - Step 4 - The defibrillator will assess whether a shock is needed and if so, it will tell you to press the shock button. An automatic defibrillator will shock the patient without prompt. Do not touch the patient while they are being shocked.
 - Step 5 - The defibrillator will tell you when the shock has been delivered and whether you need to continue CPR.
 - Step 6 - Continue with chest compressions and rescue breaths until the patient shows signs of life or the defibrillator tells you to stop so it can analyse the heartbeat again.

2. Do not move the person you are supporting. Ensure the person's dignity and privacy is respected at all times. Listen to the emergency services operator until the emergency services arrive and take over.

3. Each defibrillator has been registered with the North West Ambulance Service, this allows members of the public to gain access in the event of an emergency, however members of the public can only access the defibrillators between the hours of 8:00am and 9:00pm, this enables us to safeguard our staff and the people we support throughout the night.