

How to use an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)

The AED will guide you through the entire process until help has arrived.

1. Call 000.

If you see someone collapse, immediately call 000 and get the paramedics en route. If there are other people around, choose someone specific and instruct them to call 000 and explain the situation. This decreases confusion about who should do what and ensures that the call is being placed.

2. Check the patient's breathing and airway.

If someone has collapsed, you should immediately determine whether they are breathing normally. If the patient is not breathing or not breathing normally, check the airway is clear then begin chest compressions.

3. Locate an AED.

If there is an AED nearby, ask a bystander to bring the AED to you while you continue CPR. Apply the AED electrode pads to the bare chest of the patient and follow the prompts as instructed. Uninterrupted CPR is an important factor in increasing the recovery rate of cardiac arrest patients.

4. Turn on the AED.

5. Attach the electrode pads to patient's bare chest.

First ensure that the adhesive AED pads are attached to a cable, which is plugged into the AED machine. Then bare the patient's chest and attach the adhesive AED pads in the appropriate locations. The AED should include a diagram (typically on the adhesive pads themselves) indicating where each pad should be placed on the patient's chest.



Follow the visual & voice prompts of the AED

Note: CPR should not be interrupted while the adhesive electrode pads are being applied.

SAFETY

Do not use on conductive surfaces - water - fluids - metals if you can avoid them.

Do not operate an AED if under the effects of ALCOHOL or DRUGS

Do not touch patient when shock therapy is being delivered.

Do not use in an explosive environment, e.g. oxygen enriched, gaseous or fume environment