

EC17 Provide intermediate life support

OVERVIEW

This standard covers preparing for and performing intermediate life support, including the use of equipment to promote airway management and assist in ventilation. It addresses clearing and maintaining an open airway, establishing adequate ventilation and cardiac output in an individual as well as responsibility for monitoring and responding to changes in the individual's condition. Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies. Version No 1

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

You will need to know and understand:

- 1.the legislation regarding confidentiality and information sharing, the provision of services, the rights of the individual, protection issues, anti-discriminatory practice, informed consent, relevant mental health legislation and care programme approach
- 2.the importance of gaining assent from individuals who lack capacity to consent
- 3.the ethics concerning consent and confidentiality, and the tensions which may exist between an individual's rights and the organisation's responsibility to individuals
- 4.how to interpret and apply legislation to the work being undertaken
- 5.the policy and procedures for summoning assistance for prolonged/extended resuscitation
- 6.the policy and procedures for recording information on the provision of ILS and the details which should be recorded
- 7.the anatomy and physiology of the respiratory system
- 8.the priorities in life support
- 9.the content of the Paediatric and Adult Intermediate Life Support Guidelines as issued by the UK Resuscitation Council
- 10.the time frame within which assessment of individual needs should be carried out and the life support response initiated
- 11.the differences in techniques needed for conducting advanced life support on different types of individual
- 12.why different techniques are needed depending on the individual's condition and circumstances
- 13.the factors to be taken into account in determining the technique that will lead to the best possible outcome for the individual, including contra-indications to the use of a given technique
- 14.the situations under which intermediate life support (ILS) should not be initiated, as set down in IAW and ILS guidelines (e.g. decapitation, submersion of an adult for

- longer than 30 minutes)
- 15.the measures to be taken to ensure health and safety, infection control and the prevention of contamination
 - 16.the importance to outcome of the positioning of the individual and the practitioner applying intermediate life support (ILS), including the specific positioning needs of pregnant women in the third trimester
 - 17.the anatomy and physiology relevant to different external chest compression techniques
 - 18.the pulse sites and rate norms for different types of individual
 - 19.the upper and lower readings for different types of individual on equipment used in monitoring clinical signs
 - 20.the clinical signs and causes of airway obstruction
 - 21.the policies and procedures to be followed for the use of suction apparatus
 - 22.what to do in the event of foreign body obstruction of an individual's airway
 - 23.why the head tilt techniques should not be used where neck or spinal injury is suspected
 - 24.the purpose of oropharyngeal and nasopharyngeal airways
 - 25.the indications for the use of oropharyngeal and nasopharyngeal airways and the circumstances for their removal
 - 26.the insertion procedures for oropharyngeal and nasopharyngeal airways
 - 27.the procedures for suctioning in the presence of oropharyngeal and nasopharyngeal airways
 - 28.the ventilation ratio and rate for different types of individual
 - 29.the observations to be carried out to identify adequate oxygenation in different types of individual
 - 30.the compression : ventilation ration in one and two person ILS
 - 31.the procedure to establish the correct hand/finger placement for applying external chest compression
 - 32.the procedures and equipment used for monitoring an individual's clinical signs during and post resuscitation
 - 33.why adjustments to the techniques used in ILS may be needed, including the variations needed when the individual is hypothermic
 - 34.different methods of chest thrusts and back slaps to use for children and young people, adults of a working age and older people
 - 35.the handover procedures for an individual receiving ILS
 - 36.the policies and procedures to be followed regarding samples of fluids suctioned from an individual

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

You must be able to do the following:

- 1.establish the need for intermediate life support based on best practice
- 2.check and confirm whether or not :
 - 1.there is a need to open or clear the airway of obstructions
 - 2.the individual is breathing unaided
 - 3.the individual's respiration is inadequate for life support

- 4.the individual's circulation has stopped
- 5.resuscitation is contraindicated
- 3.determine the appropriate equipment and techniques to use according to the individual's needs in order to:
 - 1.establish an open airway
 - 2.ventilate the individual
 - 3.establish and maintain cardiac output
- 4.clear the individual's airway of obstruction using the required technique, taking account of the individual's condition
- 5.position yourself and the individual appropriately to provide life support, taking due account of the individual's condition and circumstances
- 6.apply life support techniques and equipment consistent with:
 - 1.evidence based practice
 - 2.established, local protocols
 - 3.your own scope of practice
 - 4.legislation
- 7.seek additional support promptly where the individual's needs exceed your scope of practice
- 8.maintain adequate oxygenation and cardiac output for the individual until:
 - 1.adequate spontaneous breathing and cardiac output is established
 - 2.the individual is handed over to the care of others
 - 3.death is confirmed by an authorised practitioner
 - 4.you become exhausted
- 9.alternate compressions with ventilation of the lungs at the appropriate ratio
- 10.monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of your life support interventions, responding promptly and appropriately to achieve the best possible outcome for the individual
- 11.retain, for analysis, samples of any liquids blocking the oropharynx and mouth if appropriate to patient care
- 12.apply appropriate health, safety and infection control precautions throughout
- 13.reinstate equipment and materials to working status after use
- 14.complete all required documentation accurately and legibly

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This National Occupational Standard was developed by Skills for Health. This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004): Dimension: HWB7 Interventions and treatments