

COMMON PARTICIPANT SKILL ERRORS

Checking a Responsive Person

- Participant does not obtain consent.
- Participant does not ask all SAMPLE questions.
- Participant does not conduct a systematic head-to-toe check, or fails to check one body part at a time (e.g., checks both arms at the same time, instead of one arm and then the other).

CPR—Adult, Child or Infant

- Participant does not check for responsiveness and breathing.
- Participant does not ensure that 9-1-1 or the designated emergency number has been called.
- Participant kneels in the wrong position or place beside the person.
- Participant does not locate the correct hand position when giving chest compressions.
- Participant places the palm, rather than the heel of the hand, on the breastbone when giving chest compressions (adult or child).
- Participant does not press straight down on the chest when giving chest compressions.
- Participant gives compressions that are not deep enough (at least 2 inches for an adult, about 2 inches for a child, about 1½ inches for an infant) or smooth enough, or fails to give compressions at the correct rate (at least 120 compressions per minute for adult, child and infant).
- Participant does not give breaths lasting for 1 second to make the chest clearly rise.

AED—Adult or Child

- Participant does not check for responsiveness and breathing.
- Participant does not ensure that 9-1-1 or the designated emergency number has been called.
- Participant does not turn on the automated external defibrillator (AED).
- Participant incorrectly places the pads.
- Participant allows AED pads to touch each other or fails to use the front/back (anterior/posterior) method of pad placement when necessary (for a small child or infant).
- Participant does not stay clear or tell others to stay clear when analyzing or shocking.
- Participant pushes the “SHOCK” button before being prompted by the AED.
- Participant does not begin CPR immediately after delivering a shock.

Choking—Adult, Child or Infant

- Participant does not obtain consent to give care.
- Participant does not ensure that 9-1-1 or the designated emergency number has been called.
- Participant does not lean the person forward to give back blows (adult/child).

- Participant does not support the person to give back blows (adult/child).
- Participant incorrectly places back blows (too high, too low, off center).
- Participant incorrectly places the hand/fist for abdominal thrusts (too high, too low, off center).
- Participant does not keep an infant's head lower than the chest when giving back blows or chest thrusts.
- Participant does not support an infant's head and neck when giving back blows or chest thrusts.
- Participant strikes an infant too hard or gives chest thrusts that are too deep or too shallow.
- Participant covers infant's mouth with hand while supporting jaw.

Controlling External Bleeding

- Participant does not obtain consent to give care.
- Participant does not use gloves.
- Participant does not apply and maintain direct pressure to stop the bleeding.
- Participant does not apply a dressing before bandaging.
- Participant wraps the bandage too loosely or too tightly.
- Participant does not check for feeling, warmth and color before and after securing the bandage.