

SKILL SHEET

AED Use for Children and Infants

Step 1 Turn on the AED and follow the prompts

- Because AED models function differently, follow your facility's protocols and the manufacturer's instructions for the AED you have.

Step 2 Expose the chest

- Expose the chest and wipe it dry, if necessary.

Step 3 Attach the pads

- **For infants up to 1 year old:**
 - Use pediatric pads if available. If pediatric pads *aren't* available—or the AED doesn't have a pediatric setting—it's safe to use adult AED pads or adult levels of energy.
 - Always use an anterior/posterior pad placement. To do this, apply one pad to the center of the infant's chest—on the sternum—and one pad to the infant's back between the scapulae.
- **For children 8 or younger or weighing 55 pounds (25 kg) or less:**
 - Use pediatric pads if available. If pediatric pads *aren't* available—or the AED doesn't have a pediatric setting—it's safe to use adult AED pads or adult levels of energy.
 - Use an anterior/lateral placement, according to the manufacturer instructions: Place one pad to the right of the sternum and below the right clavicle. Place the other on the left side of the chest on the mid-axillary line, a few inches below the left armpit.
 - Or, use an anterior/posterior pad placement, if the AED pads risk touching each other on the child's chest or the manufacturer recommends.



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- **For children older than 8 years or weighing more than 55 pounds (25 kg):**
 - Use adult AED pads.
 - Use an anterior/lateral or anterior/posterior placement, according to manufacturer instructions.

Alert

Never use pediatric AED pads or a pediatric electrical setting on a child older than 8 years or weighing more than 55 pounds (25 kg). That's because the shock delivered will not be sufficient. In these cases, always use adult AED pads and energy levels.



Practice Note

Some AEDs come with pediatric AED pads. These are smaller and designed specifically to deliver a lower level of energy. Also, some AEDs use a switch or key on the device itself instead of changing pads.



Step 4

Prepare to let the AED analyze the heart's rhythm

- If necessary, plug in the connector and push the analyze button.
- Instruct everyone to stand clear while the AED analyzes. No one, including you, should be touching the patient.
- As the AED analyzes, switch positions if you are working with a team. The provider giving compressions should hover their hands above the patient's chest.



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AED Use for Children and Infants (*continued*)

Step 5

Deliver a shock, if the AED determines one is needed _____

- If the AED advises a shock, again instruct everyone to stand clear. The compressor continues to hover their hands over the patient's chest in preparation for CPR.
- Press the shock button to deliver the shock.



Step 6

After the AED delivers the shock, or if no shock is needed _____

- Immediately begin CPR. You do not need to wait for the AED prompt.
- Continue for about 2 minutes until:
 - The AED prompts that it is reanalyzing.
 - The patient shows signs of return of spontaneous circulation.
 - The team leader or other trained providers instruct you to stop.
- If you are working with a team, rotate roles during the analysis to prevent fatigue as needed.

