



Resuscitation Council (UK)

Quality standards for cardiopulmonary resuscitation practice and training

Primary dental care

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1 Summary

'A patient could collapse on any premises at any time, whether they have received treatment or not. It is therefore essential that ALL registrants are trained in dealing with medical emergencies, **including resuscitation**, and possess up to date evidence of capability'

General Dental Council 'Scope of Practice' 2013

- Cardiorespiratory arrest is rare in primary dental practice.
- There is a public expectation that dental practitioners and all other dental care professionals should be competent in treating cardiorespiratory arrest.
- All primary care dental facilities should have a process for medical risk-assessment of their patients.
- Specific resuscitation equipment should be available immediately in all primary care dental premises. This equipment list should be standardised throughout the UK.
- All clinical areas should have immediate access to an automated external defibrillator (AED).
- Primary dental care providers, general dental practitioners and all other dental healthcare professionals should undergo training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) including basic airway management and the use of an AED.
- Each primary dental care facility should have a plan for summoning assistance in the event of a cardiorespiratory arrest. For most practices this will mean calling 999 immediately.
- There should be regular practice and teaching using simulation-based cardiorespiratory arrest scenarios.
- Dental staff's knowledge and skills in resuscitation should be updated at least annually.

2 Introduction and scope

Healthcare providers have an obligation to provide resuscitation skills in the event of a cardiorespiratory arrest and to ensure that staff are trained and updated regularly to a level of proficiency appropriate to each individual's expected role. This document provides quality standards and supporting information for the aspects of cardiopulmonary resuscitation practice and training relevant to the setting of primary dental care. The document does **not** include the resuscitation standards expected when 'Conscious Sedation' techniques are undertaken by dental practitioners as there is existing guidance for this specific area of practice from the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (see Supporting information).

Furthermore, this document replaces the Resuscitation Council (UK) document 'Medical Emergencies in General Dental Practice' which will no longer be supported or available on the RC (UK) website. Those requiring information on medical emergencies encountered in dental practice (other than cardiorespiratory arrest) are referred to the relevant section in the British National Formulary (BNF). Further enquiries should be directed to the Dental Advisory Group of the BNF or the British Dental Association who contributed to the advice within the BNF.

The core standards for the provision of cardiopulmonary resuscitation across **all** healthcare settings are described in:

■ **Introduction and overview**

Quality standards for cardiopulmonary resuscitation practice and training

3 Resuscitation equipment

Standards

There should be a standard list of equipment required for cardiopulmonary resuscitation within any primary dental care practice in the UK.

Equipment lists for specific healthcare settings are contained in the separate document;

[Minimum equipment list for cardiopulmonary resuscitation in primary dental care](#)

6 Audit

Standards

1. To ensure a high-quality service, primary care dental facilities should audit:
 - weekly (as a minimum) checks of the resuscitation equipment;
 - other elements of health and safety (e.g. manual handling).
2. Audit should always include a full 'debriefing' of staff after any cardiorespiratory arrest. This allows them to reflect on the treatment given and permits discussion of whether anything might have been done differently.
3. Where audit identifies deficiencies, steps must be taken to correct these.

7 Decisions relating to cardiopulmonary resuscitation

Standards

Dental practitioners and other dental healthcare providers may treat patients who have a 'Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation' decision or who possess a legal document (Advance Decision to Refuse Treatment) specifying that they do not want CPR in the event of a cardiorespiratory arrest. Management of such patients must comply with the law and should follow national guidance '[Decisions Relating to Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation - A Joint Statement by the British Medical Association, Resuscitation Council \(UK\) and the Royal College of Nursing](#)', and further guidance issued by the General Medical Council.

8 Supporting information

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