

Cardiac arrest

(March 2022)

Rationale

Cardiac arrest is life-threatening. Timely basic and advanced cardiac life support improves patient survival outcomes.

Causal Conditions

(list not exhaustive)

- Coronary artery disease
- Cardiac conduction abnormalities
- Myocardial abnormalities
- Noncardiac causes (e.g., tension pneumothorax, pulmonary embolus, hypothermia)

Key Objectives

Given a patient with cardiac arrest, the candidate will be able to initiate immediate acute cardiac life support and construct an appropriate subsequent management plan.

Enabling Objectives

Given a patient with cardiac arrest, the candidate will

- list and interpret critical clinical findings, including
 - a. pulseless circulatory state; and
 - b. features that may help determine the cause of the arrest;
- list and interpret critical investigations; and
- construct an effective management plan, including

- a. initiating basic life support (BLS) and advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) protocols;
and
- b. communicating with family members concerning the event, including
 - outcome,
 - organ donation, and
 - autopsy request.