

## Statement on Paediatric Basic Life Support Training for Dental Nurses

Resuscitation Council (RCUK) advises that the full paediatric BLS sequence of 15:2 is aimed at **healthcare professionals with a duty to respond to paediatric emergencies** (e.g. Emergency Department staff, paediatric doctors and nurses, paramedics). These people usually work in teams of two or more rescuers. Lay people should be taught the adult BLS sequence of 30 compressions : 2 ventilations.

There are other potential rescuers such as dentists, general practitioners, health visitors, and school nurses who are healthcare professionals working with children, but they often work alone. Although they may have to resuscitate a child, this would be a very unusual event and they are more likely to have to resuscitate a parent or grandparent. It would be sufficient to teach these groups the adult sequence of 30:2 with the paediatric modifiers unless they expressed a particular wish or interest to learn the full paediatric sequence.

*However, when working within a clinical setting, learners should be aware that they may witness clinicians administering CPR for a child using a ratio of 15:2. Therefore, whilst it is sufficient for learners to prove competency at 30:2 with paediatric modifiers, learners will benefit from having an awareness of the 15:2 ratio, and the circumstances in which this can be safely used. This will ensure that the learner is fully aware of the different approaches to CPR, and the role each play when administering basic life support to individuals of different ages.*

### Guidance for Paediatric Basic Life Support in a dental practice if a child is unresponsive and not breathing

Use chest compressions at a ratio of 30:2 with paediatric modifiers:

- Give 5 initial breaths before starting chest compression.
- Call emergency medical services if phone available using speaker function. If on your own or no phone is available, perform CPR for approximately 1 minute before going for help.
- Compress the chest by one-third of its depth, approximately 4 cm for an infant and approximately 5 cm for an older child. Use two fingers for an infant under one year; use one or two hands for a child over one year to achieve an adequate depth of compression.

Please use the following links for further information and advice:

- [Paediatric basic life support Guidelines | Resuscitation Council UK](#)
- [Paediatric Out of Hospital Basic Life Support Algorithm 2021.pdf \(resus.org.uk\)](#): Please note that this document states that “those trained only in ‘adult’ BLS (may include healthcare providers and lay rescuers) who have no specific knowledge of paediatric resuscitation, should use the adult sequence they are familiar with, including paediatric modifications”.
- Paediatric BLS modified - Adult sequence with paediatric modifications, which are found at this link [Paediatric basic life support Guidelines | Resuscitation Council UK](#) under the Child and Paediatric BLS Tab.