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Automated external defibrillator

Core Nursing Essentials Emergency & Critical Care Nursing

An AED assesses rhythm and advises shock when appropriate. Follow its prompts, keep others clear during analysis or shock and resume compressions as directed.

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Introduction & key concepts

An AED assesses rhythm and advises shock when appropriate. Follow its prompts, keep others clear during analysis or shock and resume compressions as directed.

Nursing responsibilities

- Check identity, consent, the relevant observations and the purpose of the assessment.
- Record the finding, context and response using the approved clinical record.
- Escalate uncertainty or deterioration to the responsible professional; do not use a study note as a standing treatment order.

Clinical example & examination focus

In a viva, explain automated external defibrillator in your own words, identify the observations needed and state a limitation. Compare the finding with the patient's baseline rather than assuming one number or label gives a diagnosis.

Quick Revision

An AED assesses rhythm and advises shock when appropriate. Follow its prompts, keep others clear during analysis or shock and resume compressions as directed.

Frequently asked question

Can this summary replace practical training?

No. Use your prescribed learning material and the institution's current protocol with qualified supervision.

References & review status

- AHA - Adult Basic Life Support (https://cpr.heart.org/en/resuscitation-science/cpr-and-ecc-guidelines/adult-basic-life-support-) - 2025 CPR/ECC guidelines. Adult BLS principles; no copied algorithm or drug-dose protocol.

Sources checked for the stated scope on 26 November 2026. Original study synthesis; independent clinical review is not claimed. Source attribution is not a copyright-clearance certificate.

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Original concise teaching synthesis. AHA - Adult Basic Life Support (https://cpr.heart.org/en/resuscitation-science/cpr-and-ecc-guidelines/adult-basic-life-support-)

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