

ACLS Cardiac Arrest Quick Reference

Adult arrest priorities and reversible causes

Emergency & Resuscitation

PHYSICIAN REFERENCE

Core sequence

- High-quality CPR; minimize interruptions; attach defibrillator/monitor early.
- Shock VF/pVT promptly; resume CPR immediately after shock.
- Give epinephrine during arrest per current ACLS algorithm; consider amiodarone or lidocaine for refractory VF/pVT.

Always search for reversible causes

- Hypovolemia, hypoxia, hydrogen ion (acidosis), hypo-/hyperkalemia, hypothermia.
- Tension pneumothorax, tamponade, toxins, pulmonary thrombosis, coronary thrombosis.

After ROSC

- Optimize oxygenation/ventilation and blood pressure; obtain 12-lead ECG; identify cause; temperature control and neuroprognostication per protocol.

Clinical safety note

Use this as a memory aid, not a prescription. Verify current guidelines, local protocols, contraindications, renal/hepatic dosing, pregnancy status, interactions and patient-specific factors before treatment.