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# COMMON PARTICIPANT SKILL ERRORS

*This information is provided as a reference tool for giving feedback to participants.*

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## Checking an Unconscious Adult, Child or Infant

- Participant does not use a combination of tapping/flicking and shouting when checking for responsiveness.
- Participant does not support the person's head, neck and back when rolling the person.
- Participant forgets to call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number.
- Participant does not tilt the head back far enough to open the airway (adult).
- Participant forgets to lift the chin when attempting to open the airway.
- Participant tilts the head too far back when opening the airway (infant).
- Participant places fingers incorrectly when lifting the chin.
- Participant closes the mouth when lifting the chin.
- Participant does not make a complete seal over mouth and nose when using a breathing barrier (infant).
- Participant does not place the ear close enough to the person's mouth and nose to check for breathing.
- Participant does not give breaths for 1 second long to make the chest clearly rise.
- Participant does not look at the chest when checking for breathing.
- Participant does not ensure a tight seal when using a breathing barrier.
- Participant does not pinch the nose shut when using certain types of breathing barriers (child and infant).
- Participant gives breaths too quickly or forcefully (child and infant).
- Participant does not watch the chest rise or fall.
- Participant does not keep the airway open while checking for breathing.
- Participant checks for breathing for *longer than* 10 seconds.
- Participant places a hand under the neck when opening the airway.

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## Conscious Choking—Adult, Child or Infant

- Participant does not obtain consent to give care.
- Participant does not lean the person forward to give back blows (adult/child).
- Participant does not support the person to give back blows (adult/child).
- Participant incorrectly places back blows (too high, too low, off center).
- Participant incorrectly places the hand/fist for abdominal thrusts (too high, too low, off center).
- Participant does not keep an infant's head lower than the chest when giving back blows or chest thrusts.
- Participant does not support an infant's head and neck when giving back blows or chest thrusts.
- Participant strikes an infant too hard or gives chest thrusts that are too deep or too shallow.
- Participant does not ensure that 9-1-1 or the local emergency number has been called.

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## **CPR—Adult, Child or Infant**

- Participant kneels in the wrong position or place beside the person.
- Participant does not locate the correct hand position when giving chest compressions.
- Participant places the palm, rather than the heel of the hand, on the breastbone when giving chest compressions (adult or child).
- Participant does not press straight down on the chest when giving chest compressions.
- Participant gives compressions that are not deep enough (at least 2 inches for an adult, about 2 inches for a child, about 1½ inches for an infant) or smooth enough, or failing to give compressions at the correct rate (at least 100 compressions per minute for adult, child and infant).
- Participant does not give breaths lasting for 1 second to make the chest clearly rise.

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## **AED—Adult or Child**

- Participant does not turn on the automated external defibrillator (AED).
- Participant forgets to wipe off the chest.
- Participant forgets to peel the backing from the pads.
- Participant incorrectly places the pads.
- Participant allows AED pads to touch each other or fails to use the front/back (anterior/posterior) method of pad placement when necessary (child).
- Participant does not stay clear or tells others to stay clear when analyzing or shocking.
- Participant pushes the “SHOCK” button before being prompted by the AED.
- Participant does not begin CPR immediately after delivering a shock.

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## **Controlling External Bleeding**

- Participant does not obtain consent to give care.
- Participant does not use a barrier.
- Participant does not apply and maintain direct pressure to stop the bleeding.
- Participant does not apply a dressing before bandaging.
- Participant wraps the bandage too loosely or too tightly.
- Participant does not check for feeling, warmth and color after securing the bandage.
- Participant does not call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number.
- Participant does not take steps to minimize shock.

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## **Splinting (Optional)**

- Participant does not obtain consent to give care.
- Participant does not immobilize the joints above and below the injured site.
- Participant does not check for feeling, warmth and color before and after splinting.
- Participant places splinting materials directly over the injured area.
- Participant applies the splinting materials too loosely or too tightly.
- Participant does not pad the knots of a sling and binder.