# **5** TOP MESSAGES



1. RECOGNISE CARDIAC ARREST AND START CPR

2. ALERT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

3. START CHEST COMPRESSIONS

4. GET AN AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED)

5. LEARN HOW TO DO CPR



# RECOGNISE CARDIAC ARREST AND START CPR

### **KEY EVIDENCE**



Early recognition of cardiac arrest improves survival



Cardiac arrest is diagnosed if person is unconscious with absent or abnormal breathing Agonal breathing and seizures are common immediately following cardiac arrest and can be confused as being a sign of life leading to delayed CPR

#### **KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

If unconscious and not breathing normally - start CPR



NO, NO GO
Conscious - NO;
Breathing or breathing normally - NO;
GO - start CPR

# ALERT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



#### **KEY EVIDENCE**



"CPR first" strategy is associated with better outcome compared to "Call first" strategy, so shortening time to CPR is important



Availability and use of smart phones with speaker or hands-free options allow bystanders to call for help and start CPR simultaneously

### **KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**



Alert the emergency medical services (EMS) immediately if a person is unconscious and not breathing/not breathing normally



If alone, dial the EMS number, activate the speaker or handsfree option to immediately start CPR while getting assistance from dispatcher

# **START CHEST COMPRESSIONS**



# **KEY EVIDENCE**



High quality chest compressions (fast and deep enough with minimal pauses) are associated with better survival



Chest compressions are safe, and there are very few reports of harm when CPR has inadvertently been given to persons not in cardiac arrest

#### **KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**



Place your hands at the center of the chest



Compress at a rate of 100-120 per minute at a depth of 5-6 cm



Don't stop until help arrives or the persons wakes up



# GET AN AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED)

## **KEY EVIDENCE**



Survival drops dramatically with each minute delay in defibrillation



AEDs can be used safely by bystanders and first responders

#### **KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**



Get an AED as soon as possible, turn it on AED and follow instructions



If you are not alone, try to minimize pauses in CPR by having one person do chest compressions while another turns on and applies the AED

# **LEARN HOW TO DO CPR**



## **KEY EVIDENCE**



Bystander CPR improves survival from cardiac arrest, so learning how to recognize cardiac arrest and start CPR can save lives



The importance of early ventilation during cardiac arrest remains uncertain, but chest compressions should always be started as soon as possible

#### **KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**



Chest compressions should be given to any unresponsive person not breathing normally



When trained and able to provide mouth-to-mouth ventilations, you should start 30:2 CPR