



# Resuscitation Policy

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**Date Approved: January 2024**



<b>Document Reference</b>	Resuscitation Policy
<b>Version</b>	V 9
<b>Responsible Committee</b>	Clinical Governance Group
<b>Responsible Director (title)</b>	Executive Director of Quality/Chief Paramedic from Executive Medical Director.
<b>Document Authors (title)</b>	Associate Director Paramedic Practice
<b>Approved By</b>	Clinical Governance Group
<b>Date Approved</b>	January 2024
<b>Review Date</b>	January 2026
<b>Equality Impact Assessed (EIA)</b>	Yes
<b>Protective Marking</b>	Not protectively marked

## Document Control Information

Version	Date	Author	Status	Description of Change
2.1	15/10/13	Mark Millins	D	Minor amendments
2.1.1	23/10/13	Mark Millins	D	Minor amendments following CGG approval
3.0	06/11/13	Mark Millins	A	Approved SMG
3.1	01/04/2014	Mark Millins, Steven Dykes	D	Addition of flowchart for making decisions about resuscitation of pre-term babies
4.0	23/04/2014	Mark Millins, Steven Dykes	A	Approved at SMG 23/04/2014
4.1	24/03/2016	Kirsty Lowery-Richardson, Steven Dykes	D	Reviewed against new guidelines; amendments and additions made
4.1.1	27/03/2016	Kirsty Lowery-Richardson, Steven Dykes	D	Minor amendments following CGG approval
5.0	15/06/2016	Kirsty Lowery-Richardson, Steven Dykes	A	Approved
5.1	11/10/16	Kirsty Lowery-Richardson	A	Amendment to NLS algorithm (appendix M) to reflect RCUK changes. Correction of minor typographical errors. – To Clinical Governance Group for Information.
5.2	April 2017	Kirsty Lowery-Richardson	A	Minor wording amendments and appendix additions – due to procedural and legislation

				changes.
5.3	22.11.17	Kirsty Lowery-Richardson	D	Additional guidance for non-clinical staff and volunteers. Updated AACE Best Clinical Practice statement. Minor amendments/corrections
6.0	April 2018	Risk Team	A	Policy Approved in April TMG
6.1	09.08.18	Simon Standen Dan Holland	D	Full review of policy body. Removal of clinical appendices. Insertion of cross-referencing to national guidance (JRCALC/RC-UK) and associated YAS SOPs where local variation exists
6.2	15/05/19	Mark Millins	D	Minor amendments to include clarification on governance arrangements and EOC/IUC response to cardiac arrest
6.3	08/07/19	Mark Millins	D	Minor amendments following CGG
7.0	July 2019	Mark Millins	A	Policy Approved in July TMG.
7.1	June 2021	Daniel Holland	D	Reviewed and updated
7.1	July 2021	Mark Millins	D	Approved at CGG
8.0	Sept 2021	Risk Team	A	Approved at TMG
8.1	Oct 2023	Mark Millins	D	Minor updates drafted
9.0	Jan 2024	Mark Millins	A	Approved at CGG
A = Approved D = Draft				
Document Author = Associate Director Paramedic Practice				
Associated Documentation:  Strategic resuscitation plan JRCALC National Clinical Guidelines for Ambulance Services Management of Deceased Patients Policy V2.0 November 2020				

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## Staff Summary

- This policy details the Trust's commitment to providing the best possible outcomes to cardiac arrest patients through the implementation of the strategic resuscitation plan.
- Enables clinicians to provide clinical care to patients to prevent cardiac arrest through the provision of evidence based treatment.
- Whilst JRCALC provides the basis of clinical practice in resuscitation this policy directs clinicians to national and Trust procedures as well as JRCALC for treating patients before, during and after cardiac arrest (Resuscitation Council UK, YAS Standard Operating Procedures, Patient Group Directions).
- This policy sets out the training commitment to clinicians around the subject of cardiac arrest and resuscitation.
- Identifies the approach to the Trust response to a cardiac arrest patient, ensuring optimum resourcing and clinical input to patient care spanning frontline 999, EOC and IUC as outlined in the strategic resuscitation plan.
- The implementation, monitoring and compliance of this policy will be monitored in accordance with responsible designates detailed within.

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 This policy outlines the Trust's approach in the management of patients in or at high risk of cardiac arrest and is designed to enable clinicians to provide clinical care, with the core goals of preventing cardiac arrest or improving survival to discharge following cardiac arrest.
- 1.2 This policy describes the overarching approach to resuscitation with specific actions set out in the strategic resuscitation plan. Clinicians within YAS will provide clinical care in accordance with national guidance provided by the JRCALC Clinical Practice Guidelines for UK Ambulance Services<sup>1</sup>, or where local variation exists, through YAS-specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

## **2.0 Purpose and Scope**

- 2.1 This policy outlines YAS's approach to providing responsive, safe and effective care of high quality relating to resuscitation in all age groups.
- 2.2 The purpose of this policy is to provide frontline clinical staff, staff within the 999-emergency operations centre, patient transport staff, and staff within the integrated urgent care service with overarching direction in relation to clinical practice that is either underpinned by national guidance (JRCALC<sup>1</sup>) or through Trust SOPs.
- 2.3 The application of this policy and associated documents to guide practice should be in conjunction with the scopes of practice for each clinical staff grade.

## **3.0 Process**

### **Clinical Response**

- 3.1 The Trust will ensure that an appropriate clinical response is dispatched to patients requiring resuscitation. This will be managed in line with established dispatch guidelines and SOPs within the 999 emergency operations centre (EOC) and the integrated urgent care service (IUC) but will ensure that the response provides both sufficient personnel and skill to meet the needs of the patient.
- 3.2 Specialist and Advanced Paramedics with enhanced clinical capability in the management of cardiac arrest and post-resuscitation care will be utilised to support the clinical response, in line with EOC dispatch guidelines<sup>2</sup>.

## **Clinical Care**

- 3.3 Core clinical practice will be underpinned by the latest guidelines issued by the JRCALC National Clinical Practice Guidelines for UK Ambulance Services<sup>1</sup>
- 3.4 Where there is a requirement for local variation from the nationally issued clinical guidance, YAS SOPs will be used to provide direction for clinical staff. This may relate to variations in practice or the utilisation of equipment and drugs. YAS SOPs will be added to the JRCALC app to allow ease of reference for clinical staff. Current SOPs are available on the JRCALC app.
- 3.5 Specialist and Advanced Paramedics with an enhanced capability in the management of cardiac arrest and post-resuscitation care will be supported to provide clinical care through YAS SOPs and Patient Group Directions (PGDs). These are also available on the JRCALC app.
- 3.6 Call takers and clinical staff within the EOC and IUC will be supported to provide telephone assessment and initial management of a cardiac arrest. Where necessary training will be provided for those clinicians working remotely from the EOC and or IUC.
- 3.7 Clinical staff are empowered to make appropriate decisions regarding the initiation and discontinuance of resuscitation in the best interests of patients. Staff are encouraged to share decision-making with the wider clinical team and to involve family and carers where appropriate.
- 3.8 The degree of autonomy and independence in relation to resuscitation and futility will be explicitly outlined within the relevant scope of practice for clinically trained staff. Registered health professionals are given a greater degree of autonomy to make decisions, supported by national guidance within the JRCALC guidelines<sup>1</sup>.
- 3.9 The management of the deceased patient and processes to be followed regarding unexpected death in the community is set out in the Management of Deceased Patients Policy<sup>3</sup>.

## **Equipment**

- 3.11 The Trust will ensure that clinical staff are provided with the equipment required to deliver safe and effective care. The Clinical Directorate will work closely with support services and procurement to ensure that this is regularly reviewed and remains fit for purpose.
- 3.12 Guidance for staff in the safe and effective use of equipment will be provided through SOPs (see JRCALC app).
- 3.13 The majority of equipment used during resuscitation is single-use and will be disposed of following use, in line with YAS Waste Management Procedure<sup>4</sup>.
- 3.14 Where items of equipment are not single use, they will be decontaminated and maintained in accordance with the YAS policies for the decontamination of medical devices and vehicles procedure<sup>5</sup>.

## **4.0 Training expectations for staff**

- 4.1 Training for resuscitation is delivered as specified within the Trust's Training Needs Analysis (TNA) and outlined within the YAS training plan. The TNA will be determined by the clinical and non-clinical portfolio governance boards with the annual training requirements and compliance with those requirements reported the clinical governance group.
- 4.2 An assessment of essential and advanced life support skills combined with update and refresher training will be provided to frontline clinical staff on an annual basis. The Trust will run a number of RESUS council (UK) accredited ALS courses each year that will be available as CPD for registered health care professionals within YAS.
- 4.3 Specialist paramedics with specific skills in the management of resuscitation will be subject to a separate training, assessment and refresher training programme which will be overseen by the YAS Academy.
- 4.4 Recognising and managing a cardiac arrest whilst conducting telephone triage or advice is a specialist area and call takers and clinical staff working in the EOC or IUC will be provided with the training required.

- 4.5 All uniformed and patient facing staff within the Trust will receive training in essential life support including the use of a defibrillator. All non-clinical support staff within the Trust will be offered group face to face training in essential life support supported by an online training module.

## **5.0 Implementation Plan**

- 5.1 This policy will be disseminated to staff using a multi-factorial approach, including reference within all core training delivered in the Trust, the use of YAS 247, clinical catch-up and cascade by the locality clinical leadership teams and by the IUC management team.
- 5.2 The latest approved version of this policy will be posted on the Trust's intranet site for all members of staff to view. New members of staff will be signposted on how to find and access this guidance during their induction to the Trust.

## **6.0 Monitoring compliance with this policy**

- 6.1 The application of this policy will be monitored through regular scheduled audit reported to the Clinical Governance Group. These audits form part of the reporting process for the National Ambulance Quality Indicators.
- 6.2 Areas of specialist practice relating to resuscitation will be reviewed by Advanced Paramedics and the Consultant Paramedic for Emergency Care in line with established clinical governance processes for specialist and advanced practice.
- 6.3 The EOC/IUC clinical governance group will monitor and report on the remote resuscitation assessment and management activity within EOC and IUC.
- 6.4 Regular reports will be provided to the quality committee in line with the established arrangements as detailed in the resuscitation plan.



## 7.0 References

1. JRCALC (2021) National Clinical Guidelines for Ambulance Services. *Joint Royal Colleges Ambulance Liaison Committee*. Class Publications.
2. EOC Dispatch Guidelines (current). Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust
3. Management of deceased patients (current). Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust
4. Waste Management Policy (current). Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust
5. Decontamination of Medical Devices Policy (current). Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust

## Appendices

### Appendix A - Roles & Responsibilities

#### Trust Board

The Trust Board have overarching accountabilities for all aspects of the resuscitation policy and will be required to gain assurance that all aspects are implemented and adhered to.

#### Clinical Directorate

The clinical directorate will ensure best practice is observed and implemented, and work with the YAS Academy ensuring best practice and current evidence based practice is utilised in the training of resuscitation care.

The Clinical Directorate will be responsible for ensuring that the care provided to patients undergoing resuscitation is audited.

#### YAS academy

The YAS academy will oversee and provide all training requirements regarding resuscitation practice and will work collaboratively with the clinical directorate in the provision of enhanced clinical training in resuscitation to relevant specialist paramedics.

The YAS academy will monitor and evaluate all education/training activities and report the findings through the Clinical Governance Group.

YAS academy will implement changes in line with best practice following discussions or direction from the Clinical Directorate or Clinical Governance Group.

### **Operations Directorate**

The operations directorate will ensure that mechanisms are in place to monitor all clinical operational staff both frontline and within the EOC, ensuring that they deliver the appropriate levels of care to patients undergoing resuscitation.

They will link into the clinical directorate and YAS Academy, highlighting any areas of concern regarding resuscitation care. They will ensure that staff remain appropriately trained to provide high quality, safe and effective care to patients requiring resuscitation.

They will ensure that effective communication processes are in place between Consultant Paramedics, Area Clinical Leads, and Team Leaders, to ensure that the dissemination of changes in clinical practice pertaining to resuscitation are implemented appropriately.

### **Integrated Urgent Care Service**

The Integrated Urgent Care Service will ensure that mechanisms are in place to monitor all call takers and clinical staff, ensuring that they are able to conduct a remote assessment to recognise a patient who has suffered a cardiac arrest and thereafter deliver the appropriate levels of care to these patients.

### **Clinical Governance Group**

The Clinical Governance Group will monitor and sign off any changes to practice or implementation of new practices or equipment used in resuscitation care management.

### **Procurement**

Procurement will ensure that front-line clinicians are appropriately equipped to care for patients requiring resuscitation and they will work collaboratively with the clinical directorate to review the minimum equipment list for compliance on a yearly basis.

The relevant equipment procurement groups will coordinate the assessment and any subsequent roll-out of new equipment as directed by the clinical directorate.

## **Individual Duties**

### **Chief Executive**

The Chief Executive is responsible for ensuring that resources and mechanisms are in place for the overall implementation, monitoring and review of this policy.

### **Executive Director of Quality/Chief Paramedic**

Has overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy in accordance with the JRCALC guidance and for ensuring that all staff delivers care in accordance with this policy.

The Executive Director of Quality may devolve some duties to other senior clinical staff.

### **Head of YAS Academy**

Is responsible for ensuring that each core course has an appropriate level of resuscitation education embedded within the syllabus, to meet the area of responsibility for that role. Some of this responsibility will be devolved to the education assurance manager within YAS Academy.

Will ensure that learner outcomes are derived from best practice in line with Clinical Practice Guidelines

To liaise with the clinical directorate regarding changes in best practice or implementation of additional/new elements to be covered in the syllabus, and paediatric equipment to be issued or carried by the Trust or on Trust vehicles or premises.

Ensuring all tutors and personnel under their supervision are competent in all aspects of resuscitation care up to their level of responsibility of practice.

To evaluate and review all taught educational material on a regular basis to ensure it meets; current best practice, Trust requirements and is appropriate for its purpose.

Communicate information on the correct selection, usage and maintenance of resuscitation care equipment to staff, particularly relating to actions taken, post incident reports or as part of a “lessons learned” process.

### **Lead Paramedic for Clinical Development**

Maintains responsibility, on behalf of the clinical directorate, for ensuring that core clinical practice remains up to date and in line with the developing evidence base and reflects current national clinical guidelines.

Works closely with YAS Academy in ensuring that education, training and development programmes relating to resuscitation practice reflect current best practice.

### **Advanced Paramedics Critical Care.**

Will remain accountable for specialist clinical practice in resuscitation and for both the review and development of the specialist paramedic workforce in this area of practice.

Will work collaboratively with the Lead Paramedic in the review and updating of clinical practice guidance, reflecting current evidence base and the recommendation from national expert opinion, research and guidance.

### **Clinical Staff**

Ensure that they maintain their skills in the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of patients requiring resuscitation in line with their training, skill level and scope of practice.

Actively manage patients appropriate to their skills, training and scope of practice. If the management of a patient requiring resuscitation is beyond their skills, competence or knowledge, they should promptly consider seeking advice or the attendance of a clinician with more advanced skills.

Ensure that the resuscitation policy is adhered to within their area of responsibility.

Ensure incidents involving resuscitation care failure are reported to their line manager and through DATIX promptly and accurately.