



Consensus of Resuscitation Science: Revision of guidelines

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Consensus statements summarising the latest peer-reviewed resuscitation science and the relevant international consensus recommendations for life support were released today by the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation.

Although the consensus statements are used as the foundation for resuscitation guidelines worldwide, not all recommendations are adopted universally throughout the world. We all acknowledge that different countries may have different requirements depending on their environment, demographics, and peoples' ability to access healthcare.

The Australian and New Zealand Resuscitation Councils collaborate to develop resuscitation guidelines that apply to both countries. Currently there are some 75 guidelines. Updates to existing guidelines will now be proposed, and draft guidelines will soon be available for comment through each council's website.

While the consensus statements released today may impact existing guidelines, the nature of today's recommendations will 'fine-tune' current practice. In most cases, the person who is first on the scene at a resuscitation event will be responsible for providing basic life support without access to any equipment or medications. Here, the Australian and New Zealand Resuscitation Councils continue to recommend that the DRS ABCD be followed and, where CPR is required, that the ratio of compressions to rescue breaths be 30:2.

Guidelines that are more likely to change are those that apply in advanced care settings. These guidelines are likely to be released for consultation first. While the Australian and New Zealand Resuscitation Councils encourage healthcare providers to consider how changes might be implemented, we stress that existing guidelines should continue to be followed.

Final guidelines are due to be released from December.

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