Newborn Life Support

(Antenatal counselling)
Team briefing and equipment check

Birth

Dry the baby
Maintain normal temperature
Start the clock or note the time

Assess (tone), breathing, heart rate

If gasping or not breathing:
Open the airway
Give 5 inflation breaths
Consider SpO2 ± ECG monitoring

Re-assess
If no increase in heart rate look for chest movement during inflation

If chest not moving:
Recheck head position
Consider 2-person airway control and other airway manoeuvres
Repeat inflation breaths
SpO2 ± ECG monitoring
Look for a response

If no increase in heart rate look for chest movement

When the chest is moving:
If heart rate is not detectable or very slow (< 60 min⁻¹) ventilate for 30 seconds

Reassess heart rate
If still < 60 min⁻¹ start chest compressions; coordinate with ventilation breaths (ratio 3:1)

Re-assess heart rate every 30 seconds
If heart rate is not detectable or very slow (< 60 min⁻¹) consider venous access and drugs

Update parents and debrief team

Acceptable pre-ductal SpO2
- 2 min 60%
- 3 min 70%
- 4 min 80%
- 5 min 85%
- 10 min 90%

Increase oxygen (guided by oximetry if available)

Maintain temperature

AT
ALL
TIMES
ASK:
DO
YOU
NEED
HELP?