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 and 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

If chest not moving:
Recheck head position
Consider 2-person airway control
and other airway manoeuvres
Repeat inflation breaths
Spo2 monitoring ± ECG monitoring
Look for a response

Acceptable pre-ductal Spo2
2 min 60 %
3 min 70 %
4 min 80 %
5 min 85 %
10 min 90 %

If chest not moving:
Reassess heart rate every 30 seconds
If heart rate is not detectable
or very slow (< 60 min⁻¹)
consider venous access and drugs

Discuss with parents and debrief team

At All Times
Ask: Do You Need Help?

Maintain Temperature

Increase oxygen
(Guided by oximetry if available)

When the chest is moving:
If heart rate is not detectable
or very slow (< 60 min⁻¹)
Start chest compressions
Coordinate compressions with PPV (3:1)

www.erc.edu | info@erc.edu
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