

Student: _____ Level: EMT-CC EMT-P Date: _____
 Evaluator: _____ Start: _____ End: _____ Total: _____ Pass/Fail _____

Synchronized Cardioversion and Defibrillation

Indications	Defibrillation – Ventricular fibrillation, pulseless ventricular tachycardia; when synchronization circuit is not working Synchronized cardioversion: Unstable supraventricular tachycardia; unstable ventricular tachycardia; stable SVT or VT refractory to pharmacologic interventions.
Red Flags	Do not delay CPR for any interval of time when defibrillating. Sedate alert patients if possible prior to cardioversion. Electrical therapy is dangerous and can harm rescuers if they are in contact with the patient during delivery of electrical charge.

Don appropriate standard precautions	
Prepare Equipment	
Manual Paddles: Connect to monitor and apply gel to paddle surface	
Hands-off Pads: Check expiration date of pads and connect to monitor	
Prepare patient	
Ensure safety	
Move patient to another location if on electrically conductive material (metal flooring, puddles of water, wet grass, etc.)	
If possible, explain procedure to patient	
Identify site	
Paddles – apex and sternum	
Pads – apex and sternum or anterior and posterior left chest	
Expose chest	
Shave hair from site if particularly thick	
Cleanse area with alcohol prep pad if visibly soiled	
Allow alcohol to dry before placing pads or paddles	
Dry patient if wet or diaphoretic	
Perform procedure	
If necessary, sedate patient	
Attach electrodes to patient	
Paddles: apply firm, even pressure against chest	
Pads: remove adhesive backing and apply firmly to skin	
Confirm rhythm on monitor	
Set energy level, following manufacturer’s recommendation	
If performing a synchronized cardioversion, activate circuit by pressing button on monitor	
Confirm synchronization by looking for arrows/dots/other indicator above QRS	
Charge defibrillator	
Clear the patient	
Look around the patient and speak loudly, “One – I’m clear, Two – everyone’s clear, three, shocking.”	
Deliver shock on “Three”	
Paddles: press down firmly on patient and depress both shock buttons simultaneously	

Pads: press shock button on defibrillator	
Assess the patient	

Confirm successful shock delivery by checking for rhythm conversion	
If rhythm converted, check for corresponding pulse and blood pressure	
If rhythm did not convert, prepare for additional electrical therapy as directed	

Critical Criteria:

- Use appropriate standard precautions
- Apply gel to paddles
- Ensure good contact between pad/paddles and patient
- Clear patient contact before delivering electrical charge
- Assess patient and ECG rhythm before and after therapy