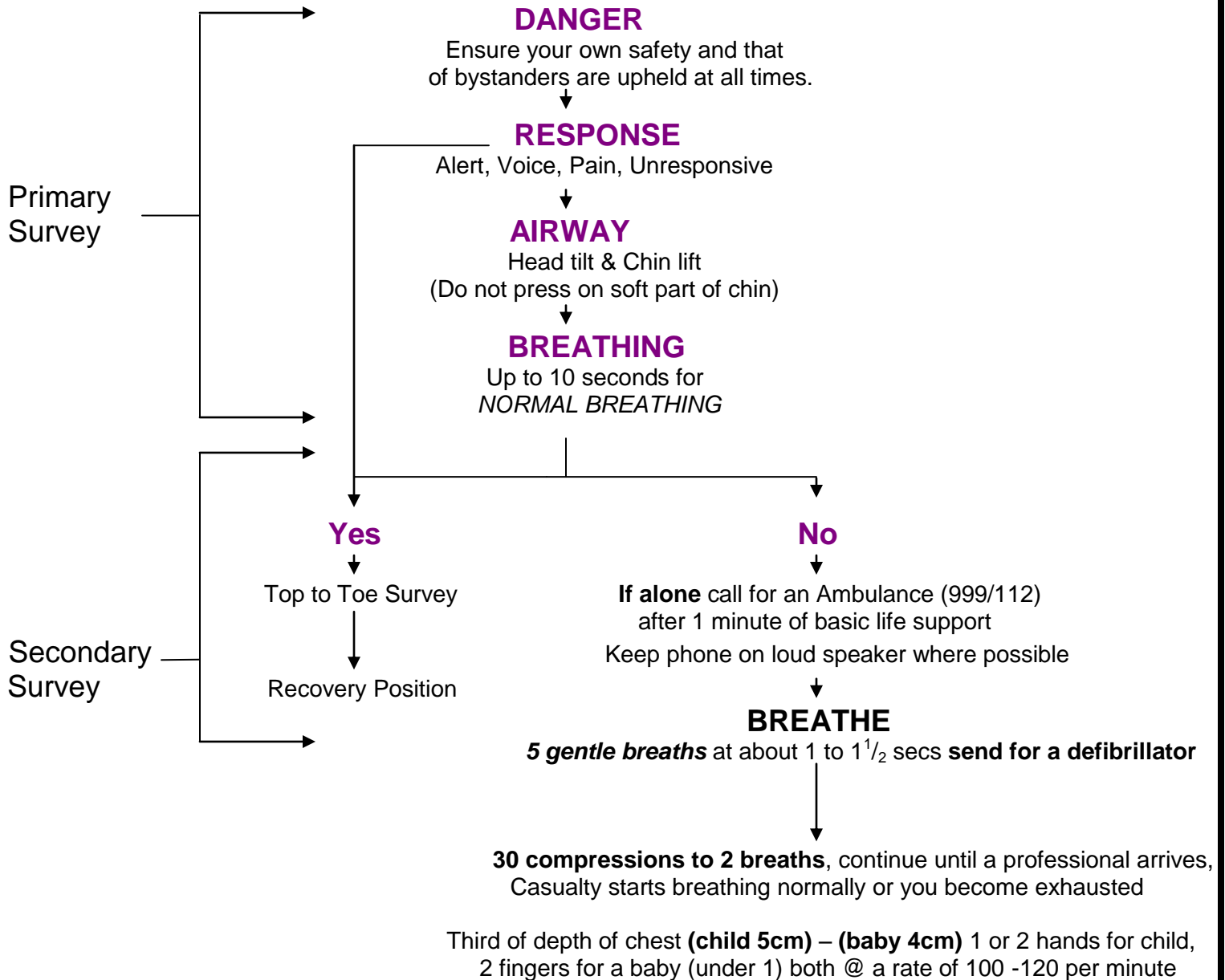


Child/Baby Resuscitation





Definitions

- A **newborn** is a child just after birth
- A **neonate** is a child in the first 28 days of life
- An **infant** is a child under 1 year
- A **child** is between 1 year and puberty

The differences between adult and paediatric resuscitation are largely based on differing aetiology, with primary cardiac arrest being more common in adults whereas children usually suffer from secondary cardiac arrest. The onset of puberty, which is the physiological end of childhood, is the most logical landmark for the upper age limit for use of paediatric guidelines. This has the advantage of being simple to determine in contrast to an age limit, as age may be unknown at the start of resuscitation. Clearly it is inappropriate and unnecessary to establish the onset of puberty formally; if the rescuer believes the victim to be a child then he should use the paediatric guidelines. If a misjudgement is made, and the victim turns out to be a young adult, little harm will accrue as studies of aetiology have shown that the paediatric pattern of arrest continues into early adulthood.

It is necessary to differentiate between infants and older children, as there are some important differences between these two groups.