**PALS Systematic Approach Algorithm**

The PALS Systematic Approach Algorithm (Figure 2) outlines the approach to caring for a critically ill or injured child.

**Initial Impression**
(consciousness, breathing, color)

Is child unresponsive with no breathing or only gasping?

- **Yes**
  - **Shout for Help/ Activate Emergency Response**
    (as appropriate for setting)

  - **Is there a pulse?**
    - **Yes**
      - Open airway and begin ventilation and oxygen as available
    - **No**
      - Is the pulse <60/min with poor perfusion despite oxygenation and ventilation?
    - **Yes**
      - Start CPR (C-A-B)
    - **No**
      - Go to Pediatric Cardiac Arrest Algorithm

  - After ROSC, begin Evaluate-Identify-Intervene sequence (right column)

- **No**
  - If at any time you identify cardiac arrest

**Evaluate**
• Primary assessment
• Secondary assessment
• Diagnostic tests

**Intervene**

**Identify**

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**Identify and Intervene**

If You Identify a Life-Threatening Problem

If at any time you identify a life-threatening problem, immediately begin appropriate interventions. Activate emergency response as indicated in your practice setting.