

## **Advice and Best Practice Guidance for the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AED)**

The purpose of this document is to provide practical advice and information on all aspects of managing an AED within your organisation. This document is not a standard or a policy but it aims to promote best practice in the care and use of AEDs.

An AED is a sophisticated, reliable, safe, computerised device that delivers a controlled electric shock and is used to treat victims who experience a cardiac arrest (when the heart stops pumping). An AED should only be applied to victims who are unconscious and not breathing normally. The AED will analyze the heart rhythm and advise the operator if a shock is required, CPR will help to maintain the victim's heart in a shockable rhythm.

### **Statement from the Chief Medical Officer (DHSSPSNI)**

**"Coronary Heart Disease is one of the leading causes of death in Northern Ireland. The majority of these deaths occur suddenly and outside of hospital. With every minute without Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) following sudden cardiac arrest, the probability of survival reduces by 7-10% per minute. Training as many members of the public as possible to do CPR and use an AED (appropriately) increases the likelihood of survival.**

This guidance document provides good practical advice for all those considering purchasing an AED."

It is important to remember that defibrillation is the third link in the chain of survival. All of the links are vital and of equal importance

<b>Link 1</b> – Recognise signs and symptoms and call 999/112 for help
<b>Link 2</b> - Carry out CPR in a collapsed, non breathing casualty.
<b>Link 3</b> – Early Defibrillation
<b>Link 4</b> – Post Resuscitation Care. Ambulance personnel arrive

**If you wish to proceed with the purchase of an AED there are organisational issues, which must be addressed.**

### **Where will the AED be placed?**

It should be somewhere central where it can be easily accessed and preferably mounted on a wall in a secure position. Ideally, the device should be accessible within 3 - 5 minutes from anywhere in the building. Appropriate signage should be displayed throughout your site indicating AED location/s.

### **Who can train as an AED operator?**

AED operators are not required to have any medical background. Trained operators should be in a position to respond to a collapsed individual on the site at any time. There should be a trained operator on site at all times. Please note that some insurance companies insist that those who train in the use of the AED should hold a First Aid qualification.

### **Who will provide the initial AED training?**

This training should be provided by an accredited first aid organisation/person. The average length of a training session is approximately 4 hours. The contents of the course should be in accordance with the training recommendations set out by the Resuscitation Council UK for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Automated External Defibrillation. (This training manual is available from ([www.resus.org.uk](http://www.resus.org.uk) )

### **Ongoing training commitment.**

All identified personnel who have received initial training should be updated by an accredited first aid organisation/person according to the Resuscitation Council UK guidelines. Refresher training should be undertaken every 6-12 months and an accurate record of the trained AED operators should be maintained.

***(See Appendix 1 for sample training record)***

### **Who will be responsible for checking the AED?**

There should be a designated person/s (***See Appendix 2***) with responsibility for checking the AED on a weekly basis and following use of the device. This should be carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

On a weekly basis the following should be checked:

The AED – that it is in its correct location and has not been tampered with

Battery status indicator - to ensure the battery is working correctly

Additional equipment – this should include disposable face mask, scissors, disposable razor, disposable gloves and towel/dry cloth

***(See Appendix 3 for a sample checklist)***

### **How will AED operators be alerted if a collapse occurs?**

It is the organisation's responsibility to ensure an appropriate protocol is in place for an immediate, co-ordinated response by the trained AED operators.

### **Is there aftercare/debriefing available for the person/s who have used the AED in a cardiac arrest situation?**

It is the responsibility of your organisation to offer aftercare/debriefing in the event of the AED being used.

#### **It is important to:**

Complete your standard accident/incident report form

Ensure all relevant information is given to Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS)

Ensure aftercare/debriefing is available for the individual/s involved in the resuscitation attempt if required.

### **Have you notified your insurance company to let them know that there is an AED on site?**

It is the responsibility of your organisation to notify your insurance company and make them aware that there is an AED on site.

**Have you provided relevant information on your AED to the British Heart Foundation (BHF) as part of their national mapping programme?**

This information can be provided using the BHFNI AED data mapping form available from Steph Leckey ([leckey@bhf.org.uk](mailto:leckey@bhf.org.uk))

**The Resuscitation Council UK Guidelines were last updated in November 2005. These guidelines are usually updated on a 5 yearly basis. You should be informed of any changes by your accredited training organisation/person at your 6-12 month refresher training.**

AED Operator Training Record

Name of Site:

Site Address:

Name of AED Operator	Dept	Contact Number	Date of Initial Training	Date of Refresher Training (1)	Date of Refresher Training (2)	Date of Refresher Training (3)	Date of Refresher Training (4)	Date of Refresher Training (5)	Comments

**Details of Site AED Co-ordinator**

**Site Name:**

**Site Address:**

**Your Site AED Co-ordinator is:**

**Name:**

**Department:**

**Contact No:**

**Email:**

**Please contact the above person if there are any issues in relation to the AED or if the device is used.**



