

Public Access Defibrillation Program Implementation Guide

There are 4 key elements to establishing a Public Access Defibrillation program.
These include:

- Having designated rescuers trained in CPR and in how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED)
- Having a physician to provide medical oversight and direction
- Integrating your program with the local emergency medical services (EMS) system
- Using and maintaining the AED(s) according to the manufacturers specifications

Steps:

1. Gain consensus

Within your company or organization begin to identify the key decision makers and arrange a meeting to gain support. The American Heart Association or your local EMS Agency can assist you with presentation materials.

2. Review the law and regulations

Review Federal, State and local laws and regulations regarding Public Access Defibrillation program requirements. Consult your local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency

3. Consult your local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency

The local EMS Agency can provide you with information regarding training, purchasing AEDs, medical direction and laws and regulations.

4. Identify your response team

Identify who would be most likely to respond in an emergency – this will help determine how and where AEDs are mounted or stored.

5. Arrange for medical direction

Since the Food and Drug Administration classify AEDs as medical devices, they cannot be purchased without a prescription from a physician. This physician may serve as the “medical director” of the AED program, providing medical oversight. The medical director assists in the development of an emergency response plan – a procedure to follow in the event of an emergency. The medical director may also assist with training plans, the development of policies and procedures, updates as needed and reviews the use of the AED. Suggestions for identifying a physician to provide medical oversight may be obtained by calling your local EMS Agency, the American Heart Association, or individual vendors.

6. Select equipment and vendor

Some considerations in selecting the AED may include: Reputation of the AED manufacturer for the product’s quality and customer service, compatibility with the equipment used in the local EMS system, and ease of operation of the AED.

7. **Design Policies and Procedures**

These may include:

- Who manages the AED program
- Who provides medical direction
- When the AED should be used, when it should not be used
- Training required to use the AED
- Locations of AEDs and other equipment (such as gloves and pocket mask for CPR)
- Notification process for internal AED responders and external emergency medical services responders
- Maintenance schedule for equipment
- Training and refresher training policies

8. **Determine the quantity and location for AEDs**

The American Heart Association recommends defibrillation in less than 4 to 5 minutes, ideally in less than 3 minutes. When determining the quantity and location for AEDs, use this 3 minute response time as a guideline.

9. **Develop a budget**

Consider costs related to equipment, training and promotion of your program

10. **Purchase and deploy AEDs and other supplies**

11. **Required notification**

Once your AED(s) is/are purchased and training is complete notification of the local EMS Agency as to the location of the AED is required by regulation. Use of the AED is to be reported to the EMS Agency as well. (Forms attached)

12. **Promote your program**

Everyone within your organization needs to know about the program. They should know how to respond if they witness a sudden cardiac arrest.

