

Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

Requirements & Recommendations for BLS Services

Pennsylvania

GOAL:

To reduce mortality rates from cardiac arrest by implementing an early defibrillation program that fosters collaborative relationships among Regional EMS Councils, local EMS agencies, and the PA Department of Health (Department).

AUTHORITY:

Prehospital practitioners are currently authorized under regulations promulgated by the Department to use “an AED when approved by a physician who serves as the Medical Director of the ambulance service with respect to use of AEDs.” The Department has drafted this document through the Bureau of EMS (BEMS) to identify requirements and offer recommendations for ambulance services and quick response services (QRSs) to carry and use AEDs.

1. BLS SERVICES – QRS AND AMBULANCE SERVICES

a. Requirement

- i. Carry AEDs.
- ii. Have a Medical Director who is willing to serve in an oversight capability for the service’s use of the AED.
- iii. Ensure, through their AED Medical Director, that practitioners authorized to use AEDs are properly trained.
- iv. Participate in the regional EMS quality improvement program, as defined by the regional EMS council.

b. Recommendation

- i. Maintain an inspection and maintenance log of AED for review by the regional EMS council.
- ii. Maintain a roster of practitioners authorized to use AEDs.

2. PERSONNEL

a. MEDICAL DIRECTOR

i. Requirement

1. Be a doctor of medicine or osteopathic medicine with currently registered license to practice medicine in Pennsylvania.
 2. Provide medical direction with respect to the service's use of the AED.
- ii. Recommendation
1. Be board certified in emergency medicine or ACLS provider.
 2. Verify that BLS service meets AED training requirements.
 3. Oversee all quality assurance (QA) requirements.
 4. Review the service's roster of authorized practitioners.
 5. Identify skill maintenance requirements.
 6. Perform QA on every case of AED use for the service.

NOTE: All BLS services must have an AED Medical Director. It is not currently required to have a BLS service Medical Director. BLS services may have one (1) Medical Director who functions as a BLS service Medical Director, or a physician who serves to provide oversight for the use of AEDs only.

b. PRACTITIONER

i. Requirement

1. Is a prehospital practitioner authorized to use AEDs by the AED Medical Director.
2. Have successfully completed a Department approved course that includes instructions on the use of AEDs.
3. Follows current PA Statewide BLS Protocols in the use of AEDs.
4. Adheres to any skill maintenance requirements established by the AED Medical Director.
5. Ensures that any use of an AED during patient treatment is documented on the service's electronic patient care report (ePCR).

ii. Recommendation

1. Forward completed ePCR and event record from AED (when available) to the AED Medical Director for review.

c. REGIONAL EMS COUNCIL

i. Requirement

1. Assist prehospital personnel, ambulance service, and QRS operating in the regional EMS system to implement, maintain, and improve AED response programs and training in accordance with the PA Statewide EMS requirements.

ii. Recommendation

1. Ensure that BLS services carry and use AEDs, and comply with service and personnel requirements prescribed by the Department.

The BEMS will not endorse or approve any particular device, manufacturer, or product vendor