



Establishing a Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) Program

What is PAD?

Public Access Defibrillation has been around for some time now. The objective of this program is to place Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in places of easy access to the general population, combined with CPR certified providers with the objective of increasing the survival rate of Sudden Cardiac Arrest.

What is Sudden Cardiac Arrest and who suffers from it?

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is a leading cause of death in the United States, claiming over 200,000 victims a year¹. It is usually caused by abnormal heart rhythms known as arrhythmias, which cause the heart to stop pumping blood effectively. Unless a normal heart rhythm is restored, death will follow within a matter of minutes.

SCA does not discriminate: it can strike anyone of any age, sex or ethnic background. The cause is not well understood, and many victims have no prior symptoms or history. The potential exists for up to 50,000 of these deaths to be prevented, should a bystander have initiated the Cardiac Chain of Survival, including early defibrillation.

How can a PAD program save lives?

When a person collapses from SCA, their chance of surviving drops 10% by the minute². Damage done is related directly to the length of time that the patient is without a heartbeat. CPR can keep blood flowing, but it cannot restart the heart. An AED can re-establish a normal heart beat, if used early, by delivering an electric shock to jumpstart the heart. A large 3 year, multi-national study found that twice as many people survive SCA in locations with lay responders trained and equipped with AEDs and CPR, as opposed to if they were trained in CPR alone.³

¹ American Red Cross

² American Heart Association, Circulation 2005.IV-35.

³ The Public Access Defibrillation Trial Investigators. Public-Access Defibrillation and Survival after Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest. N Engl J Med 2004;351:637-46.



How does an AED work?

After being applied to the patient, the AED analyzes and determines if an electric shock can be given to the heart in order to restore a pulse. Any properly trained person can perform this procedure, after taking a course on CPR with AED training. No formal education or training in medicine is required. As of the current time New York State has over 135,000 individuals trained to use AEDs.⁴

Who is required to have PAD programs?

Various state laws have created mandated entities for providing PAD sites. At the current time NYS mandated entities include:

- Public Schools
- Health clubs (with memberships greater than 500)
- Public buildings
- Places of public assembly (i.e. theaters, stadiums, ballparks, gymnasiums, field houses, arenas, civic centers, concert halls, recital halls, indoor and outdoor amphitheatres or other auditoriums used for the presentation of musical renditions or concerts)

Who else can establish a PAD program?

Any agency, business or organization can establish a PAD program. There are steps that must be taken to establish a PAD program which are regulated by the New York State Department of Health. Although the public is now able to obtain an AED for their own personal use, any AED which will be used for the public or by the public must be a certified PAD program. The process is neither difficult nor costly (initial costs include purchasing the AED, training, and registration) and we encourage all EMS agencies, fire departments, businesses and organizations to establish a PAD program. The more AEDs that are available to the public, the higher the likelihood of saving a cardiac arrest patient's life. The life saved by a PAD could be your friend's, your family member's or even your own.

⁴ NYS DOH



How can my business/agency/organization establish a PAD program?

- Step 1: Identify a New York State licensed physician or New York State based hospital knowledgeable and experienced in emergency cardiac care to serve as Emergency Health Care Provider (EHCP). For assistance, contact the Office of Prehospital Care at (716) 898-3600.
- Step 2: Develop an agreement between the EHCP and your organization including written protocols and policies for the use of the AED.
- Step 3: Select an approved AED capable of defibrillating both adult and pediatric patients. [AED Manufacturers](#)
- Step 4: Provide an approved training program for AED users. Contact the Office of Prehospital Care at (716) 898-3600 to schedule a course, or [view a list of approved courses](#).
- Step 5: Download and complete the Notice of Intent and Collaborative Agreement to apply to become a PAD site. Mail it to: **Office of Prehospital Care, ATTN: PAD Program, 462 Grider St., Buffalo, NY 14215.**
- Step 6: Upon receiving notification of PAD Program approval, post a sign or notice of being a PAD site at the main entrance of the building in which the AED is stored, indicating the location(s) of AED storage. [Download sample sign](#).



List of AED Manufacturers

The following is a partial list of AED manufacturers. The office of Prehospital Care does not endorse any product; speak with your EHCP for assistance in choosing an appropriate model.

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|------------------|---------------------------|
| -Cardiac Science | -Phillips Medical Systems |
| -Defibtech | -Physio-Control |
| -Zoll | -Heartsine Technologies |
| -Medtronic | -Welch Allyn |

List of approved AED training courses

The New York State Department of Health Bureau of EMS has identified the following as acceptable Training Centers for Public Access Defibrillation program participants.

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| -American Red Cross | -American Heart Association |
| -National Safety Council | -EMS Safety Service |
| -Medic First Aid International | -American Safety and Health Institute |
| -Emergency Services Institute | -REMSCO of NYC, Inc |
| -State University of New York | |

Helpful websites

www.sca-aware.org

www.la12.org

<http://www.suddencardiacarrest.org/>

<http://www.madisonmccarthy.org/>

AED



Defibrillator located on premises

Location: _____

This facility is a registered Public Access Defibrillation site