

MSAD # 30

Automated External Defibrillator

Code: EBCF

The majority of sudden cardiac arrests occur outside of the hospital setting, The most common cause of sudden cardiac arrest is ventricular fibrillation (VF) accounting for about 85% of cases. The single most important determinant of survival is the time from collapse to defibrillation and the restoration of normal cardiac rhythm. Studies have shown that defibrillation within the first 3 minutes of witnessed VF arrest results in survival rates > 50% With every 1 minute delay to defibrillation survival rates decrease by 7-10%, influenced by the presence and quality of bystander CPR. (Cardiopulmonary resuscitation). After 12 minutes of VF, survival rates in adults drop to < 5%. Timely defibrillation saves lives; the more rapid the access to defibrillation, the more likely it will save a life.

MSAD # 30 is identified in our community as a high people traffic location. The placement of an automated external defibrillator at the school and a program of training for individuals who are likely to be present at the events happening at the school during and outside of the usual school hours may result in lives saved through timely intervention.

The Automated External Defibrillator (AED) program, offered through a grant by the federal government to MSAD 30 and providing an AED to be located at the Principals office at the Lee/Winn Elementary School, is an entirely volunteer effort. The coordinators, authorized AED users and overseers all obtain training and maintain this program on a voluntary basis. This policy is written to provide guidance in the management of this program.

The Automated External Defibrillator

The AED is used to treat sudden cardiac arrest. It is only applied to victims who are unconscious, without a pulse, signs of circulation and normal breathing. The AED will analyze the heart rhythm and advise the operator if a shockable rhythm is detected. If a shockable rhythm is detected the AED will charge to the appropriate energy level and advise the operator to deliver the shock.

Authorized AED Users

The AED may be used by staff and community members trained in its use.

Training

Training sessions will be conducted initially as required to establish a core of trained users. Subsequently users will renew their training annually. In addition quarterly refreshment of knowledge by watching the AED orientation video is recommended. Training records will be kept by the school nurse or her designee.

Equipment

Location: The AED and all accessory equipment will be located in a central area of the Lee/Winn Elementary providing ready access to the device. Its location will be well marked. At this time it is in the office area, which will be maintained unlocked for ready availability during all times that the building is in use.

Maintenance: The AED will be checked monthly by the school nurse or her designee. The machine will be made to perform a self-diagnostic test that includes battery strength and an evaluation of internal components. A checklist of the equipment and accessories will be kept with the AED and initialed and dated at each system review.

Accessory Equipment: There will be 2 sets of defibrillator pads, as well as a resuscitation kit containing 2 pairs of latex free gloves, one razor, one set of trauma shears, one facemask barrier device, and several paper towels stored with or attached to the handle of the AED.

Post-event Review

Following each use of the AED a review shall be conducted to learn from the experience. The AED medical advisor will conduct and record the review. All key participants in the event will participate in the review. A copy of the review summary will be maintained with training and program records. It is desirable that the area EMS or other agency responsible for the area use of AED's be involved in the review of data so that education may be garnered from a wider base and shared across users.

Annual System Assessment

Once each calendar year the medical advisor and/or school nurse will conduct and document a review of the program including training records, equipment operation and maintenance records, and event reviews.

Adopted on: April 25, 2006