

POLICY 5300 Use of Defibrillator(s)

Automated External Defibrillators

The Vineland Board of Education recognizes that more than 350,000 Americans die from out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrest. Many die needlessly because life saving defibrillators are not immediately available. The American Heart Association estimates that almost 100,000 deaths could be prevented each year if defibrillators were more widely available to designated responders.

The recommendation from the American Heart Association Chain of Survival includes early defibrillation as a critical link in the survival of sudden cardiac arrest. Brain death and permanent death start to occur in just four to six minutes after someone experiences cardiac arrest. Cardiac arrest can be reversed in most victims with defibrillation if administered within a few minutes. The victim's chances of survival are reduced by 7-10% with every minute that passes. Few attempts at resuscitation succeed after 10 minutes.

Automated external defibrillator (AED) or defibrillator means a medical heart monitor and defibrillator that:

- A. Has received approval of its premarket notification filed pursuant to 21 U.S.C. s.360 (k) from the United States Food and Drug Administration
- B. Is capable of recognizing the presence or absence of ventricular fibrillation or rapid ventricular tachycardia, and is capable of determining, without intervention by an operator, whether defibrillation should be performed; and
- C. Upon determining that defibrillation should be performed, automatically charges and requests delivery of an electrical impulse to an individuals heart.

Automated external defibrillators (AED) will be located in the Vineland Public School buildings and will be used by qualified responders in response to cardiac medical emergencies. The device will not be administered by anyone without training. The defibrillator shall be maintained and tested by the school nurse assigned to that building according to the operational guidelines of the manufacturer. The AED will be kept on school property and may accompany Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel to a hospital emergency room. It will be returned to the school as soon as the emergency has been adequately addressed.

Neither the properly trained care provider, owner of the semiautomatic defibrillators, nor the trainers of their use will be held civilly liable for their acts or omissions in rendering good faith emergency care to someone who appears to be in cardiac arrest.

The Vineland Board of Education employee may use the defibrillator under the following circumstances:

- A. The employee has successfully completed and holds a current certification from the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, or other training program recognized by the Department of Health and Senior Services in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of a defibrillator. The certificate will be kept on file in the Personnel office and the office of the Supervisor of Health Services. Re-Certifications will be submitted for filing annually.

- B. The victim is in cardiopulmonary arrest as determined by unconsciousness, absent pulse, and no spontaneous breathing.
- C. "911" is activated
- D. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) is performed until the defibrillator (AED) is brought to the scene.
- E. An AED Incident Report is filled out by the employee once the victim has been transferred to the care of Emergency Medical Services (EMS).
- F. The school nurse notifies the school physician of the use of the defibrillator after the victim has been transferred to the care of Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

The use of the defibrillator is contraindicated under the following circumstances:

- A. Consciousness of victim
- B. Presence of breathing in a victim
- C. Presence of detectable pulse
- D. If victim is lying in water

Any person or entity, who, in good faith, acquires or provides a defibrillator, renders emergency care or treatment by a use of a defibrillator or supervises such care or treatment and, who has complied with the requirements of P.L. Chapter 34, shall be immune from civil liability for any personal injury as a result of such care or treatment, or as a result of any acts or omissions by the person or entity in providing, rendering, or supervising the emergency care or treatment. The immunity provided shall include the prescribing licensed physician and the person or entity that provided the training in the CPR and use of the defibrillator.

References:

- P.L. Chapter 34
- American Heart Association "2001 Heart and Stroke Statistical Update"
- American Heart Association Instructor's Manual Heart Saver AED
- Wolkenheim, Becki Jo Hirschy, RN, MS, Public Access Defibrillation in Schools Project Adam © 2000, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin

Adopted: 11 June 2003

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