

SECTION: PROPERTY

TITLE: USE OF AUTOMATED

ELECTRONIC DEFIBRILLATORS (AEDS)

ADOPTED: July 12, 2004

REVISED:

SHALER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

718. USE OF AUTOMATED ELECTRONIC DEFIBRILLATORS (AEDS)

1. Purpose

The Board is committed to providing a safe, healthy environment for its students and employees.

The purpose of this policy is to maximize the Shaler Area School District's preparedness in responding to any occurrence of sudden cardiac arrest in the school environment.

NASN Position Statement

This policy is based on current evidence that "victims of sudden cardiac arrest are more likely to survive if they receive prompt support and treatment." According to the American Heart Association:

- Survival rates of 50% to 74% have been reported when adult victims of ventricular fibrillation...Receive immediate bystander CPR plus defibrillation within 3 to 5 minutes of collapse.
- Life-threatening emergencies can happen in any school at any time.
- Ventricular fibrillation....is the most common abnormal heart rhythm that causes sudden cardiac arrest.
- Death most often occurs without defibrillation.

2. Definitions

Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) - a device applied to victims who are unconscious, without pulse, signs of circulation and normal breathing. The ADE 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 a shock.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) - a condition where the heart stops beating suddenly and unexpectedly due to a disturbance in the heart's electrical system called ventricular fibrillation.

District AED Coordinator - the person designated by the District who conducts the day-to-day duties associated with the AED program and serves as the primary liaison between St. Margaret's Hospital AED Program Coordinator and Shaler Area School District.

Good Samaritan Act of 1999 - This act provides immunity from liability protection for anyone attempting to use the AED, even without prior training.

Medical Director - Physician from St. Margaret's Hospital who is responsible for providing medical direction for the AED program.

Medical direction will include the following:

- write a prescription for AEDs.
- provide medical direction for use of AEDs.
- review and approve emergency procedures related to the use of all AEDs within the District.
- review and evaluate response documentation and rescue data for all uses of AEDs.

Volunteer Responder - a person who provides voluntary assistance to victims of medical emergencies and who has successfully completed an approved AED training program. Each Volunteer Responder must also be trained in Universal Precautions against Bloodborne Pathogens.

AED Building Contact Manager - the certified school nurse or other member of the individual building staff as designated by the principal responsible for assisting the District AED Coordinator with monthly AED checks, updating AED site information, and assisting with individual building training and renewals as scheduled by the District AED Coordinator.

3. Authority

This policy shall apply to all District students, faculty, and administrators, and other participants in all programs conducted by the Shaler Area School District and all users of the Shaler Area School District facilities.

The management of the Shaler Area School District's AED program shall be the responsibility of the District's AED Coordinator in conjunction with the Shaler Area Board of School Directors and the St. Margaret's Hospital Medical Director.

During school hours, the School Board shall require proper certification by School District employees prior to using the AED. During non-school hours, when at all possible, a volunteer responder with proper AED certification should be available on the premises from the group using the facility. If there is no certified volunteer responder, a scheduled certified employee may act as the onsite responder. If the facility is not staffed and the building is locked, there will be no access to the AED.

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4. Delegation of
Responsibility

The Good Samaritan Act of 1999 will provide exclusion from liability should an untrained individual use the AED in those instances when a Shaler Area School District facility is not locked and the AED is accessible.

The AED may be used by all AED Building Contact Managers or any Volunteer Responder who has successfully completed an approved CPR and AED training program and has a current successful course completion card.

5. Guidelines

The maintenance of all District AEDs will be managed primarily by the St. Margaret's Foundation and in compliance with approved District procedures.

The AED Program will be managed by the District AED Coordinator and in compliance with approved School Board protocol and procedures.

1. AEDs will be housed in every school within the District following the District Protocol Procedure.
2. In the event that AED is used on a victim of cardiac arrest, an Incident Report will be filed and a copy will be available.
3. In the event the AED is used, the EMS will be responsible to get the AED to St. Margaret's Foundation maintenance as per the Foundation guidelines. The AED Building Contact Manager will be responsible to advise the District AED Coordinator of all AED use. The District AED Coordinator will follow-up to ensure that the AED has been serviced.
4. The following resources will be used to establish and maintain an AED program to meet National Standards:
 - PA Law - Bloodborne Pathogens
 - PA Public Access Defibrillation Law Summary
 - American Heart Association AED Guidelines
 - Infection Control Procedure for occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens
 - Good Samaritan Act 1999
5. The Medical Director is the physician from St. Margaret's Hospital who directs the Foundation AED Program. The Medical Director is responsible for writing a prescription required for the purchase of AEDs and reviewing and approving guidelines for emergency use.
6. The District AED Protocol/Procedure will provide all guidelines for housing AEDs, training of Volunteer Responders, and procedures to be followed for AED use.