

Policy Number: 1.010
Name: Automated External Defibrillator Policy (AED)
Approved: April 1, 2009

Policy Statement

The Universities at Shady Grove is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all members of the University community.

Publicly accessible Automated External Defibrillators (AED) have proven to significantly increase the chances of survival of persons who experience Sudden Cardiac Arrest, provided the AED's are properly equipped, located, maintained and used. The AED program at Shady Grove was developed using the guidelines provided by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMS).

Background

Sudden Cardiac Arrest occurs when the heart's electrical system malfunctions and the heart itself stops beating. It's unpredictable and can happen to anyone, anywhere, anytime. It is fatal unless treated quickly. The only effective treatment is early defibrillation. Defibrillation is an electrical shock that re-starts the heart. A machine called a defibrillator administers the shock.

Traditionally, defibrillators have only been in ambulances and hospitals. But today the technology exists to have affordable defibrillators available wherever people gather. On-site personnel, with minimal training can operate these defibrillators.

Legal Liability

The use of AED's designed for use by the public pose little risk of liability to those who use them for the purpose of providing emergency medical assistance. These devices are unlikely to cause harm since they are designed not to work when a heart beat is already present. Nor do they work on inanimate objects. To date, no law suit has been initiated involving the use of AED's in North America. Rescue workers in Maryland receive protection under the "Good Samaritan Law", MD Code Annotated Courts and Judicial Proceedings, 5-603, which in part:

- Provides immunity for rescuers.
- Provides immunity for acquirers and enablers, except trainees.
- Encourages CPR/AED training.

AED Program Coordinator

Ms. Karen Clark from UMB Nursing is designated as the AED Program Coordinator. (301-738-6041, kclar006@son.umaryland.edu). Ms. Clark is responsible for:

- ensuring routine maintenance of all AED's on premises;
- maintaining a record of the location of all AED's at the University;
- helping with stress management following the use of the AED;
- maintaining AED Operator Training Recognition forms; and
- ensuring AED use forms are completed and submitted to MIEMMS.

Logistics/Locations

- An AED will be stored and secured on a wall mounted box at each of the security desks in Buildings I, II, and the Camille Kendall Academic Center (SG III).
- A fourth AED will be mounted outside the Recreation Center in Building III. This AED will be kept in a wall mounted box with audible alarm.
- Each AED will be marked with an identifiable number and its proper location.
- Included with each AED will be 2 sets of defibrillator chest pads, disposable gloves, cables, one extra battery set, if the AED uses replaceable batteries other than long life lithium batteries, and the AED report form.
- An AED manual with all applicable forms, including this policy, will be kept at each of the security desks and the Recreation Center desk.

Security Personnel Responsibilities

- Regularly inspect AED's to ensure they are charged, document same.
- Ensure 9-1-1 is called immediately for all medical emergencies.
- Ensure AED is brought to the site of all serious medical emergencies, especially ones involving unconscious victims.
- Direct emergency services to the site of an emergency.
- Report any use of tampering of an AED to the Program Coordinator.
- Inspect wall mounted AED's on each security round.
- Maintain the AED manual at each of the security desks.