



Section 14: Appendix 2: Medical Procedures

SECTION 14: AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED)

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A	AEMT	A
P	PARAMEDIC	P

INDICATIONS	SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	CONTRAINDICATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-traumatic cardiac arrest in patients > 8 years of age Non-traumatic cardiac arrest in patients < 8 years of age even if adult pads are only available 	<p>The patient must meet ALL of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unresponsive Apneic Pulseless 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If patient is found in water, remove from water and dry patient thoroughly. Do not use an AED in an explosive atmosphere, extremely wet atmosphere, or on a metal surface If a medication patch is found, remove patch and wipe clean before applying defibrillation pads Do not place defibrillation pads directly over patient's implanted defibrillator Patients < 8 years of age require specific pediatric defibrillation equipment

PROCEDURE

Establish that the patient is pulseless and apneic.

1. Perform CPR for (2) minutes.
2. Attach the defibrillation pads to the patient's chest and connect the cables to the AED.
3. The sternum pad is to be attached to the patient's upper right chest, to the right of the sternum on the mid-clavicular line.
4. The apex pad is to be attached to the patient's lower left rib cage, laterally and beneath the left nipple.
5. Turn the unit ON and follow the voice prompts.
6. Rhythm analysis:
 - Do not have any patient contact while the AED analyzes.
 - Rhythm analysis should take approximately 9 - 13 seconds.
7. If the AED unit's voice prompts advise that "no shock advised":
 - Check for a pulse, if no pulse, continue CPR.
8. Visually check that no one is in contact with the patient and announce CLEAR.
9. Press the SHOCK button when advised to by the unit's voice prompts:
10. Continue CPR for 2 minutes.
11. If the patient's pulse has returned:
 - Insure that the patient has a patent airway and treat accordingly.
12. If the patient remains pulseless, continue use of CPR and AED.

KEY POINTS

- Do not use the AED in cases of traumatic or hypovolemic cardiac arrest (unless driver involved in MVA is in cardiac arrest and is suspected of having an acute MI while driving).
- Resuscitation should be withheld in all cases where such efforts would be futile. Patients should be considered DOA and resuscitation should not be attempted in the following situations:
 - Refer to the Dead on Arrival (DOA) Policy.
 - A valid (within the last 2 years) Do Not Resuscitate (DNR). Refer to the Advanced Directives – Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Policy.
- Defibrillation cables should be inspected for damage and / or wear.
- Defibrillation pads should be routinely inspected to assure that they are within their expiration and are not opened.
- Assure that batteries are charged and spares are available.