



New Guidelines for AED

As you may know, at the end of 2005 new guidelines for CPR, First Aid and AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) were released. These guidelines are the culmination of years of work to develop science-based recommendations for treating cardiovascular emergencies, and sudden cardiac arrest. These guidelines are based on a thorough review of experiences in the field conducted by the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation. The CPR skills based on the ECC 2000 guidelines for first aid and CPR are not incorrect nor are they harmful, but improved methods based on new scientific evidence will make it easier to learn, retain and perform these lifesaving skills.

In addition, there are new protocols for AED usage. In the previous guidelines, a series of up to three consecutive shocks would be delivered before pausing for CPR. The new protocol calls for a single shock, followed by a 2 minute CPR interval. In cases of sudden cardiac arrest, where a normal heart rhythm can be restored, over 85% of the time only one shock is needed. But in cases where additional shocks may be required, performing 2 minutes of CPR after the first shock improves the efficacy of the next shock.

Currently, your AED(s) are most likely configured to the ECC 2000 guidelines. Although there is no current regulatory requirement to update the configuration of your AED(s), you may want to consider it. Safety Training Associates has begun to utilize training programs that incorporate the procedures of the new ECC 2005 guidelines. In order to be consistent with the training and the guidelines you may want to update or have your AED updated. Each manufacturer has its own policy and procedure for upgrading the software in the AED. We have included links and phone numbers that will provide you with information about how to update your AED.

WEB RESOURCES TO UPDATE YOUR AED

Philips HeartStart AED

http://www.medical.philips.com/us/products/resuscitation/2005_Guidelines.html
800-263-3342

Medtronic

http://72.5.51.168/_dwn/3206583-000.pdf
800-442-1142

Cardiac Science

<http://www.powerheart.com/support/>
800-991-5465

Zoll

http://zoll.com/page_nr.aspx?id=349
800 348-9011

Defibtech

http://defibtech.com/2005_AHA_Upgrades.html
866-333-4248

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For additional information please contact

Rev. Joy T. Melton, J.D., Chief Resource Officer
United Methodist Insurance
400 Perimeter Center Terrace, Suite 900
Atlanta, GA 30346
www.UnitedMethodistInsurance.org
Email: joymelton@bellsouth.net
Phone: 770-512-8383
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