

Public Access Defibrillation Program (PAD) Information
JeffSTAT EMS Training Center

Why You Need a Public Access Defibrillation Program:

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the world. The American Heart Association estimates that approximately 220,000 people die from sudden cardiac arrest annually. The cause of cardiac arrest is most often a condition called ventricular fibrillation, a potentially lethal heart rhythm in which the heart has erratic electrical activity and cannot pump properly. To date, the only known treatment for ventricular fibrillation is defibrillation, a treatment in which the heart is externally shocked and reset. Historically the only people trained to perform defibrillation were healthcare providers with access to defibrillators in hospitals and on ambulances. However, even in an urban community with a good emergency medical services system, an ambulance can take 8-10 minutes to respond to a medical emergency in the community. This is problematic in that the American Heart Association research has shown that for each minute that passes without defibrillation, the chance of survival decreases by 7-10%.

Thanks to advances in technology, there is a new generation of equipment called automated external defibrillators (AED) that make it possible for lay people to administer defibrillation sooner than ambulance or hospital personnel. Today's AEDs are easy to use and inexpensive and can be found in public places around the world, including office buildings, airports, malls, stadiums, gyms, hotels, and other places in which large numbers of people gather or work. Having laypeople trained in CPR and AED use significantly improves survival rates for someone who experiences sudden cardiac arrest at your facility. In addition to this obvious public health benefit, a public access defibrillator program (PAD) can reduce your risk of getting sued if an employee or layperson sustains cardiac arrest while at your facility. Organizations without adequate first aid equipment, including an AED, are more likely to be sued. It is likely that PAD programs will become a workplace standard in the future.

Our Public Access Defibrillation Program:

JeffSTAT EMS Training Center will establish and maintain a PAD program at your facility. Our goal is to make the program as simple for your organization as possible and to ensure the program is compliant with the standards of the American Heart Association.

The PAD program is a comprised of the following steps:

Workplace/site assessment – We will travel to your facility, inspect the layout of the facility, and determine the best location in which to place the AEDs. We will also determine how many AEDs are needed at your facility to ensure the American Heart Association three (3) minute response time standard is met.

Development of an emergency response plan – We will assist you in the development of an emergency response plan that will specify how your employees will respond to medical emergencies and how the AED will be used at your facility. We will use the response plan template of the AED manufacture or the American Heart Association.

Medical direction – The Food and Drug Administration requires that a physician order the AED. We will provide access to an emergency physician or cardiologist from Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. This physician will be responsible for the medical leadership of the PAD program and will provide clinical expertise, including general oversight of the PAD, quality control, and training.

Training – We will provide on site training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). This American Heart Association program will include the use of the AED. A certification card valid for two years will be issued to all participants. The initial training program last four hours. Your organization will select the dates and times of all training sessions.

Drills – The American Heart Association requires refresher training and drills every four months. Our instructors will travel to your facility and validate the knowledge of your employees by reviewing the emergency response plan and organizing drill responses to simulated medical emergencies.

Quality control – The medical director will conduct a performance improvement review each time the AED is used. The medical director will review data from the AED unit and speak with the responders to ensure all response protocols were followed properly. Opportunities for improvement will be identified.

Equipment selection – The American Heart Association does not have a preferred vendor for AEDs. We will assist you with contacting the appropriate vendors and selecting the AED that best matches the needs of your organization. The ultimate decision about what AED to use is up to your organization.

Integration into your local emergency medical services plan – We will work with your local emergency medical services organizations to inform them of your PAD program and your emergency response plan. This will better prepare them for a response when a medical emergency occurs at your facility.

Internal communication to employees – We will assist you with internal communication about the PAD program to your employees and can assist with Writing newsletter articles, memorandums, and press releases to ensure everyone knows about your PAD program.

Who We Are:

The JeffSTAT EMS Training Center provides emergency medical services training and education to healthcare providers and laypeople in the Delaware Valley. This includes paramedic, emergency medical technician (EMT), cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), and many other training programs. The instructional staff includes physicians, nurses, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, and other healthcare professionals, all of who have real life experience in emergency medical care. Combined, these instructors train over 3,500 students per year.

The Training Center is owned and operated by Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and is based in Center City Philadelphia. Courses are offered at several of the Jefferson campuses. Custom courses can also be provided at offsite locations such as healthcare facilities, schools, churches, corporate facilities and physician office The Training Center is accredited by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the American Heart Association

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