



Position Statement

Use of Automated External Defibrillators

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Emergency Medical Services Association of Colorado, Inc.

The automated external defibrillator (AED) has proven to be an effective tool in treating certain types of cardiac arrest. AEDs are an important medical device that is valuable to basic level EMS personnel when used in conjunction with additional basic life support medical training.

The treatment that can be provided with an AED is an invasive medical procedure, with significant potential medical consequences. Use of an AED is appropriate at the first responder¹ level and above, as the first responder is the first level at which emergency medical personnel are trained to provide additional needed assessment and treatment skills.

An advantage of the AED is that its use can be provided by non-traditional EMS responders who may have a shorter response time to the patient. However, anyone who wishes to accept the responsibility incurred by using an AED must have a sufficient foundation of emergency medical training beyond mere AED training. The necessary foundation of emergency medical training is taught at the first responder level, to which any AED user should be trained.

1 U.S. Department of Transportation First Responder National Standard Curriculum

