



"The Shocking Truth"

June 2006

Promoting Community Awareness of Automated External Defibrillators

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[A Year of Change](#)

The year 2006 has been a big year of change. The American Heart Association (AHA) released the newest guidelines for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AED) in November 2005. With new CPR guidelines that emphasize high quality bystander CPR and shock delivery with an AED we hope to double or even triple survival rates from cardiac arrest. *Currents Winter 2005-2006*

Over the last several months we have been restructuring CPR classes with the newest literature and CPR techniques. The Basic Life Support (BLS) Healthcare Provider curriculum was released a couple of months ago and the lay rescuer Heartsaver curriculum was released May 31, 2006 for the first time. With all of this change there have been a lot of questions and misunderstandings about what is mandated, expected, or recommended. This month's newsletter is dedicated to clarifying some of these questions.

1. "I have a current CPR card that expires next year; do I need to take another class before June 1, 2006 to stay current?"

Answer: No, as a BLS provider your card is current until it expires even if it is a year and a half from now. At that time you will need to take the full recertification course with the new guidelines. The June 1, 2006 date is the date that all BLS Instructors must complete their Science Update Course in order to continue to teach BLS classes. Even BLS instructors do not lose their instructor status if they do not attend by this date; it is just that they are not allowed to teach classes until they receive the new information. The goal is to have every BLS provider updated to the new guidelines within the next 1 ½ -2 years.

2. "I am due for my Healthcare Provider Recertification this month, can I just do the BLS written test and show my skills like before?"

Answer: No, Page 4 of the new HCP instructor manual states that because there are so many changes, students with cards issued before June 1, 2006, must complete a renewal course using the 2006 BLS for Healthcare Provider (HCP) Renewal Video and practice the skills with the video. For subsequent renewals, instructors can continue to choose to use the renewal video or just perform skills and written test.

3. "I have had an AED for the last 2 years; must I have my AED reprogrammed to the one shock scenario before I can use it?"

Answer: No, it is only a recommendation to upgrade your AED to the 1 shock algorithm followed by 2 minutes of CPR, it is not mandatory. The science shows that with most AEDs now available, the first shock eliminates ventricular fibrillation (VF) more than half of the time. In cases where the first shock fails, resumption of CPR is likely to confer a greater value than another shock.

Healthcare
Provider
Curriculum is
now available!

Schedule your
update!

New Heartsaver
AED/CPR
Curriculum is
now available!

To Contact Us:

AED Institute of America,
Inc
P.O. Box 157
Brea, CA 92822
714-488-0454

<http://www.aedinstitute.com>

info@aedinstitute.com

All information obtained for this newsletter is from Currents 2005, or directly from technical support of the companies quoted.

Currents 2005 This refers back to the science, remember if a shock is advised from an AED, then the victim is dead, and any functioning AED is better than no AED at all. Therefore use whatever AED you have if the victim is unresponsive and not breathing.

4. "How do I upgrade my AED and how much will it cost for the new 1 shock, 2 minute CPR algorithms?"

Answer: Many of the AED companies have released information on the new upgrades that are available for their specific AEDs. Most of the companies are offering free upgrades to any AED purchased after November or December 2005 and for older AEDs a fee of \$50-\$300 dollars per AED depending on if you want a loaner AED to replace the unit you have or how fast you need the AED to be returned. Some companies have attempted AED system downloads in the field but due to the severity of the completeness of the software it is advised to follow the manufacture's guidelines in this matter. Most upgrade information can be obtained from the manufacture's websites. Feel free to call us if you have questions.

[For Our AED Programs](#)

AED Institute manages AED Programs across the country and oversees AEDs from every manufacturer. It is our goal to make sure that every one of our programs and clients will be offered the upgrade of the new AED algorithms. We will be contacting each of you early in the summer to make these changes. Here are some of the manufacturer's statements:

- **Welch Allyn** is shipping AEDs with the new AHA guidelines now. AEDs currently on the field will need to go to the factory for upgrade to monitor quality control of the programming. Any AED purchased after 12-5-05 will be upgraded at no charge. The only fee will be shipping the AED to the Welch Allyn facility. The AED will then be returned to you with the new AHA guidelines installed within 24 hours of arrival to their facility. For those with older AEDs, the fee will be \$149 for a full evaluation of the AED and a download of the new algorithm. Welch Allyn will then place a new full five year warranty on the AED (value \$300 for most AEDs). Loaner AEDs are available for an additional fee.
- **Philips** is shipping new FR2s now and the On-site and FRx will be available shortly. The existing FR2s can be reprogrammed in the field depending on the version of software installed. The FRx and the On-Site can be sent to the Philips for a device exchange and then when the newer AEDs are available they will send yours back to you updated. There is a charge of \$280. Philips will add an additional 2 year warranty to reprogrammed AEDs, value \$395.
- **Cardiac Science** is shipping the AEDs with the new AHA guidelines but have no date for the reprogramming of existing AEDs at this time, it should be later this year and at a \$20-\$60 fee. They plan that it can be done in the field. They can only update AEDs that are listed as a 9200R.
- **Zoll** is shipping AEDs with the new AHA guidelines now and will have reprogramming available for field upgrade for any AED in July. It will be a computer download, there will be a fee for those AEDs purchased before Oct 2005, however the fee is unknown at this time. If you have a Zoll AED, they suggest you register on-line for the update information.
- **Medtronic** has announced their new AHA guidelines. Medtronic has multiple different devices so I suggest checking out their website www.aedhelp.com/AHA for the specific AED you have. The programs

This newsletter is written
and shared by
Pamela Foster, RN
President of
AED Institute of America,
Inc.

will be avail both in the field and/or by having a service rep come to your facility.

Remember, you can still use the AED you have in the way it is configured; current AEDs will save lives everyday the way they are now! You just have to use it!!

Your promise to Save a Life!

Please note that your AED is ready for use and signed off for the month of June:

- AED is in it's case, battery installed, central location
- System status indicator shows AED is ready for use
- 2 sets of sealed pads within expiration date
- Spare battery within expiration date
- Prep kit, including face shield, gloves razor, scissors...

AED Institute of America, Inc.
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