

Policy Number: 20.105.80

Name: Automatic External Defibrillator Policy

Origin: Health and Safety (Human Resources)

Approved: May 15, 2007

Approval Process: Vice-President (Administration)

Revision Date(s):

Policy Statement

The University of Regina is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all members of the University community.

Publicly accessible Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) have proven to significantly increase the chances of survival of persons who experience Sudden Cardiac Arrest, provided the AEDs are properly equipped, located, maintained and used. Consequently it is the policy of the University of Regina to acquire AEDs and ensure that all publicly accessible AEDs at the University are purchased, located and maintained in partnership with the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region Publicly Accessible Defibrillator Program (RQHR PAD Program).

Background

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) occurs when the heart's electrical system malfunctions and the heart itself stops beating. It's unpredictable and can happen to anyone, anywhere, anytime. It is fatal unless treated quickly. The only effective treatment for SCA is early defibrillation. Defibrillation is an electrical shock that re-starts the heart. A machine called a defibrillator administers the shock.

Traditionally, defibrillators are found only in ambulances and hospitals. But today the technology exists to have affordable defibrillators available wherever people gather. On-site personnel, with minimal training can operate these defibrillators.

Role of the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region

The Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region's Public Access Defibrillation Program (RQHR PAD) is working to put AEDs in public locations with a high risk of Sudden Cardiac Arrest. The RQHR PAD Program builds partnerships with local organizations and businesses who acquire AEDs.

As part of their program RQHR has agreed to provide the following assistance to the University:

- assist with purchasing an AED and ensuring routine maintenance;
- provide information on training in the use of AEDs and re-certification;
- coordinate an **Emergency Medical Services (EMS)** Activation Plan for a PAD location;
- conduct a post-incident review. This would take place after a Sudden Cardiac Arrest and the use of the AED; and
- help with stress management following the use of an AED.

Legal Liability

The use of AEDs designed for use by the public pose little risk of liability to those who use them for the purpose of providing emergency medical assistance. These devices are unlikely to cause harm since they are designed not to work when a heart beat is already present. Nor do they work on inanimate objects. To date, no law suit has been initiated involving the use of AEDs in North America.

In addition, in Saskatchewan, *The Emergency Medical Aid Act* provides that persons who provide emergency medical assistance are not liable for damages for injuries or death they may cause in doing so unless it is established they were grossly negligent.

Responsibilities

Vice-Presidents, Associate Vice-Presidents, Deans, Directors, Department & Unit Heads, will:

- Ensure all AEDs purchased by the University are part of the RQHR PAD program.
- Ensure the University complies with the conditions and standards concerning AEDs set by the RQHR PAD program.
- Ensure that Chief Building Wardens, Emergency Wardens and Resident Assistants receive Basic Life Support-AED training approved by RQHR PAD Program, and ensure their training is renewed every three years.
- Report any use or tampering of an AED to the Director, Health & Safety.
- Immediately notify Campus Security in the event an AED Cabinet Alarm sounds.

The Director, Health & Safety (Emergency Planning Coordinator) will:

- Liaise with RQHR on the purchase and location of the University's AEDs.
- Develop and make readily available procedures for the use of the AED by the public.
- Monitor the Annual Maintenance of AEDs by RQHR.
- Monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the AED Activation Plan.
- Ensure signage is appropriately placed to notify the public of the presence of the AED.
- Maintain a record of the location of all AEDs at the University.

Campus Security will:

- Regularly inspect University AEDs to ensure they are charged. This involves checking the inspection window on each AED to ensure it reads 'OK'. The AED in the campus patrol car shall be checked at the start of each shift, and other AEDs checked whenever the officers are on patrol in the area of the AED.
- Train all Security Officers in Basic Life Support-AED training approved by RQHR PAD Program, and ensure each Officer's training is renewed every three years.
- Direct Emergency Services to the site of an emergency in accordance with their standard procedures and attend the site with the campus security AED.
- Report any use or tampering of an AED to the Director, Health & Safety.

Staff, Students and Other Members of the University Community will:

- Report any use or tampering of an AED to the Director, Health & Safety.
- Immediately notify Campus Security in the event an AED Cabinet Alarm sounds.
- Not in any way tamper with the AED except for the purpose of responding to a cardiac emergency.
- In the event of a cardiac emergency, first contact 911, and if time permits, Campus Security (4999). (As part of the PAD Program 911 EMS will contact campus security when they are notified of a Cardiac Emergency at the University.) In the absence of trained personnel, and after 911 has been notified, others may retrieve the AED and follow the instructions kept with the AED unit, until trained responders arrive.

AED (Activation Plan) & Procedures

The AED (activation plan) includes:

1. Instructions on all public phones on how to activate EMS through 911.
2. Signage on every entrance to the University Main Campus advising that there is AED's on site.
3. Signage throughout the University providing the Emergency numbers 911 as well as the Campus Security emergency number 585-4999.
4. Emergency information brochures for Staff and Students providing Emergency Numbers 911 and 585-4999.
5. The ability of RQHD-EMS to contact Campus Security (585-4999) to activate an AED response.

AED Alarm System

AEDs that are stored in wall cabinets and accessible to the general public shall have as part of the cabinet an alarm which will ring when the door is opened. The purpose of the alarm is to deter tampering and to alert persons in the area who may be trained, of a possible cardiac emergency. Campus Security will have keys to activate and de/activate the alarm.

Campus Security will have at their disposal the keys needed for this purpose. If anyone does activate the alarm or hears the alarm ringing, please call Campus Security at 585-4999.