

**MEHLVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
GUIDELINES FOR PREHOSPITAL EMERGENCY CARE**

**PAGE 1 OF 2**

**SUBJECT: 700.10  
CARDIAC EMERGENCIES:  
AED - AUTOMATED EXTERNAL  
DEFIBRILLATION**

**ORIGINAL ISSUE: 5/08  
LATEST REVISION: 5/08**

---

**Overview:** The AED combines cardiac rhythm interpretation with electrical shock therapy. When the AED detects ventricular fibrillation or a rapid tachycardia, a defibrillatory shock is delivered. It is applied during a cardiac arrest situation, thereby decreasing the time interval between the onset of ventricular fibrillation/tachycardia and cardioversion therapy.

**Indications:**

1. Unconsciousness
2. Apneic
3. Pulseless

\*\*Treat according to age appropriate protocols. Follow manufacturer guidelines for pediatric patients. Must use pediatric models.

**Contraindications:**

1. Consciousness
2. Presence of breathing
3. Presence of pulse

**Procedure:**

1. Power on.
2. Attachment.
  - a. Select correct pad size or dose system for victim's size and age (child vs. adult).
  - b. Open package and expose adhesive surface.
  - c. Attach pads to the patient (upper right sternal border and cardiac apex).
  - d. Attach cables to AED (if needed)
3. Analysis.
  - a. Announce to team members, "Analyzing rhythm, please stand clear!" (Verify there is no patient movement and that no one is in contact with the patient).
  - b. Press the "Analyze" control. Some AED's omit this control.
4. Shock.
  - a. If VF/VT is present, the device will charge and signal that a shock is indicated.
  - b. Announce, "Shock is indicated. Stand clear."
  - c. Verify that no one is touching the patient.
  - d. Press the "shock" button when signaled to do so.
5. Repeat CPR and steps 3 and 4 until VF/VT is no longer present or until a unit equipped with advanced life support equipment arrives and assumes care of the patient.

**MEHLVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
GUIDELINES FOR PREHOSPITAL EMERGENCY CARE**

**PAGE 2 OF 2**

**SUBJECT: 700.10  
CARDIAC EMERGENCIES:  
AED - AUTOMATED EXTERNAL  
DEFIBRILLATION**

---

**Considerations:**

1. Throughout the cardiac arrest, while the AED is in use, the operator should give an appropriate verbal report.
2. If no shock advised, check pulse. If pulseless, perform CPR and then re-analyze.
3. The use of the AED should be coordinated with ALS personnel. ALS personnel should consider the shocks delivered by the AED as part of their ACLS protocol.
4. **SAFETY IS ESSENTIAL IN THE OPERATION OF THE AED.**

**Documentation:**

1. The receiving hospital should be notified as soon as possible after the AED protocol has been implemented.
2. Any documentation available from the AED should be attached to the ARF as well as given to the Emergency Department staff.
3. Documentation is required on all AED/CPR events whether or not countershock was administered.

**STANDARD PRECAUTIONS MUST BE OBSERVED.**