



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



CLINICAL DIRECTIVE 01/2015
FROM: Medical Director
TO: Paramedics, Advanced Paramedics, EMTs, Supervisors, Managers.
SUBJECT: Paediatric Defibrillation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advanced paramedics, and health care professionals whose scope of practice permits, should use defibrillators in manual mode for all age groups.• Paramedics should continue to use defibrillators in AED mode for all age groups and may consider using defibrillators in manual mode for all age groups upon completion of manual defibrillation training module.• EMTs and responders should use defibrillators in AED mode for all age groups.• If manual defibrillation or a paediatric energy attenuator system is not immediately available an adult AED and Adult energy regimes may be used on paediatric patients. Adult pads should be used – in very small children, consider anterior-posterior positioning.
RATIONALE: <p>Current scope of practice allows <i>Advanced Paramedics</i> to use defibrillators in manual mode during both adult and paediatric resuscitations and adjust the paediatric energy dose in accordance with PHECC CPGs.</p> <p>ILCOR guidelines 2010 identified the importance of minimising interruptions to chest compressions and stress the importance of rapid defibrillation of VF/ VT in both adult and paediatric cardiac arrest patients.</p> <p>If a manual defibrillator is not available; an AED with paediatric attenuation is desirable. If neither is available, an AED without a dose attenuator may be used. AEDs with adult energy doses have been successfully used in paediatric patients with minimal myocardial damage and good neurological outcomes.</p>
EFFECTIVE FROM: January 8 th 2015
EFFECTIVE TO: Indefinitely
QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ON THIS DIRECTIVE: Education and Competency Assurance Officer

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