



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



CLINICAL DIRECTIVE 04/2011
FROM: Medical Director
TO: Advanced Paramedics
<p>SUBJECT: Manual defibrillation in ventricular fibrillation cardiac arrest</p> <p>Advanced Paramedics dealing with VF cardiac arrests should use the manual function on the defibrillator and make decisions on defibrillation based on interpretation of the displayed waveform. Advanced Paramedics should not use the AED function on the defibrillator.</p> <p>If APs encounter a cardiac arrest where an AED has been applied by a paramedic crew or first responder, at the earliest appropriate time in the resuscitation process, the AED should be substituted with a manual defibrillator (either by switching to manual mode on the defibrillator attached to the patient or replacing an AED with a manual defibrillator). The AP should then use manual mode only for defibrillation.</p>
<p>RATIONALE:</p> <p>The ILCOR 2010 guidelines have re-emphasised the importance of minimising hands-off time during CPR. Studies have demonstrated that after a five second interruption in CPR it can take up to 90 seconds to get blood pressure up to a level that perfuses the brain. Pauses in CPR are directly related to poor neurological outcome or death. The pauses in CPR associated with AED analysis can be significant, and AP training equips APs to recognise and treat VF in a much speedier manner, thus minimising hands-off time.</p>
EFFECTIVE FROM: 04/04/2011
EFFECTIVE TO: Indefinite
<p>QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ON THIS DIRECTIVE: Education and Competency Assurance Officer</p>

Clinical Directives are formulated by the National Ambulance Service Medical Directorate, the National Ambulance Service Education and Competency Assurance Team, the Dublin Fire Brigade Medical Director, the Dublin Fire Brigade EMS Support Team and the Irish Coast Guard Chief Crewman (Standards). Clinical Directives apply to all relevant staff in the HSE National Ambulance Service, Dublin Fire Brigade and Irish Coast Guard helicopter winch-crew.

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