



IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT AED COMPATIBILITY

Common Misperception: The law requires that we purchase AEDs compatible with local EMS defibrillators

While many states may require specific elements to establish a comprehensive AED program, none require that the device be compatible with manual defibrillators used by local EMS services.¹ AEDs should always be chosen based on the features and functionality which best fit the needs of the organizations and rescuers who will use them.

Common Misperception: Pad and AED compatibility is a critical factor to help save lives during a sudden cardiac arrest

Quick response with a user-friendly AED, not compatibility, is a critical factor in helping to save lives. In fact, a person's best chance of surviving an SCA comes from receiving immediate cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to get blood flowing to the heart and brain, along with an electrical shock from a defibrillator to stop the abnormal heart rhythm. For every minute without CPR and defibrillation, chances of survival decrease 7%-10%.²

Also, many local EMS will have specific standard operating procedures (SOPs) about the continued use of pads applied by lay responders when they assume care for the SCA victim. Some SOPs have EMS rescuers remove AED pads and replace them with those that offer additional, more advanced treatment functionality.

Thus, the quick action by first responders and the effectiveness of the AED to provide therapy outweigh pad and AED compatibility as primary critical factors in a rescue.

Common Misperception: We should only purchase the same brand of AED used by the local EMS

In many cases, the needs of the local EMS service differ dramatically from the needs of other organizations that deploy AEDs. AEDs used by local EMS often include advanced features which are beyond the needs of non-professional rescuers. These devices may be able to view an ECG waveform, have ECG monitoring capabilities and switch quickly from automated mode to manual defibrillation. In contrast, very few non-professional rescuers have been trained in reading an ECG or operating a manual defibrillator. For these non-professional rescuers, an AED is appropriate. Cardiac Science AEDs are specifically designed to be simple to use, and provide clear prompts and in-depth CPR feedback* to ensure a rescue can be conducted easily and effectively.

*Intellisense CPR electrodes provide corrective feedback on all three critical dimensions of CPR: rate, depth, and chest wall recoil. See www.cardiacscience.com/products/cpr/ to learn more. Available for Powerheart G5 AEDs only.

1. State Laws On Cardiac Arrest and Defibrillators, National Conference of State Legislatures (www.ncsl.org)

2. Link MS, Atkins DL, Passman RS, Halperin HR, Samson RA, White RD, Cudnik MT, Berg MD, Kudenchuk PJ, Kerber RE. Part 6: electrical therapies: automated external defibrillators, defibrillation, cardioversion, and pacing: 2010 American Heart Association Guidelines for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care. *Circulation*. 2010;122(suppl 3):S706-S719.