



AED Frequently Asked Questions

What do I have to do once I purchase an AED?

This varies due to the AEDs intended application and location.

The FDA requires a prescription for a home/personal use AED. Note: The Philips OnSite is the only AED currently approved by the FDA for sale in all 50 States without a prescription.

Requirements for a Public Access AED vary state to state (corporations, churches, schools, gyms, etc.). Most states require physician oversight, EMS registration, AED/CPR training, etc.

Am I covered under my state's Good Samaritan Law?

Most states have stipulations that must be upheld in order to be covered by the Good Samaritan Law. You may be required to maintain your AED, track the expiration of the battery and pads, provide AED/CPR training, register your AED with local EMS, and have physician oversight.

Where do I find a prescribing AED Physician?

An AED prescription can be written by a licensed physician (ask your local hospital or clinic).

I watched the video that came with the AED and the AED tells you what to do, why do I need to get training?

Your video will explain how the AED functions, however, many state laws require that an AED be coupled with CPR/AED certification which helps to protect your company and helps to complete the State requirements in many areas.

Training is available through many organizations, both in-person and online. It is highly recommended that your AED training be part of a comprehensive First Aid/CPR training program.

What is Medical Direction?

This is in addition to a Physicians prescription (if required). Medical Direction means having a licensed physician approve and sign off on your AED program policy. This policy should always include:

Training: Ensure that expected users of the AED receive nationally recognized training in CPR and AED use.

Maintenance: Ensure the AED is maintained and tested according to the manufacturer's operational guidelines.

Deployment Notification: Any person or entity who acquires an AED shall notify an agent of the emergency communications or vehicle dispatch center of the existence, location, and type of AED.

Event and Post-Event Notification: Any person who uses an AED, activates the Emergency Medical Services as soon as possible and reports any clinical use of the AED to the licensed physician. Once notified, the physician will review data from the event and write a summary, including CPR compression and the proper or improper function of the AED and potential changes to be addressed in the internal response procedure currently in place.

How do I choose which AED is right for me/my company?

There are several factors to consider. Is it for an EMS/Fire Department? Do you intend the unit to be stationary (for example, in an office or warehouse) or mobile (in a truck, boat, or plane)? Will you want it to be capable of working on children? What kind of training capability do you need? Do you need any first aid supplies as well? What kind of case do you want? Do you need a cabinet or wall mount? With alarm? Flashing light? There are many options.