

Automated External Defibrillator Use in the School Setting

Policy Code: 9205/6130

Montgomery County Schools are committed to the health and safety of the students, faculty, staff and visitors. Due to technological improvements and lower costs, automated external defibrillators (AEDs) may now be safely acquired, installed and used by schools to save victims of sudden cardiac arrest. An AED is used to urgently diagnose and treat ventricular fibrillation.

The goal of this policy is to ensure that AEDs installed on a Montgomery County school campus are safely maintained and used, and to promote training and easy access to installed AEDs. Montgomery County Schools chose to acquire AEDs, and will comply with this policy. Schools that acquired an AED will designate a responsible person to oversee the use of the AED.

LIABILITY AND GOOD SAMARITAN LAWS

North Carolina law allows for the use of an AED during an emergency for the purpose of attempting to save the life of another person who is, or who appears to be, in cardiac arrest. Accordingly, North Carolina law also expressly provides immunity from civil liability for those who obtain and maintain AEDs, and those who use such devices to attempt to save a life. Specifically, North Carolina General Statute Section 90-21.15 provides for three classes of persons or entities who are exempt from civil liability related to the procurement and maintenance of AEDs.

- The person or entity that provides the cardiopulmonary resuscitation and AED training to a person using an AED.
- The person or entity responsible for the site where the AED is located when Montgomery County Schools have provided for a program of training.
- A North Carolina licensed physician who writes a prescription, without compensation, for an AED.

Montgomery County Schools will maintain AEDs. Responsible school personnel as well as the physician, who writes the prescription for the AED, are exempt from civil liability related to the use of the device to save a life. In addition, North Carolina General Statute 90-21.14 provides that the person who used an AED to attempt to save a life or saved a life will be immune from civil liability unless the person was grossly negligent to intentionally engage in wrongdoing when rendering the treatment.

AED training is offered by the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, FirstHealth of the Carolinas, and certified instructors of Montgomery County Schools and includes recognition of cardiac arrest symptoms, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the proper use of an automated external defibrillator.

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PHYSICIAN RESPONSIBILITIES

An AED can only be purchased by prescription (not required by NC State law, but highly recommended), and its use requires medical direction by a licensed physician. This individual will provide medical expertise on the proper use of AEDs. If an AED is used, the physician or their designee will review its use and review downloaded data.

Legal References:

Cross References:

Adopted: August 6, 2007