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Executive Director

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EARLY DEFIBRILLATION TREATMENT GUIDELINE

I. AUTHORITY

Division 2.5, Health and Safety Code, Section 1797.220

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. "First Responder or EMT-I" means an individual who meets the certification requirements of Title 22 and is functioning as part of an approved AED Service Provider.
- B. "AED" means an Automatic External Defibrillator.
- C. "Region" means the geographic jurisdiction of the Mountain-Valley EMS Agency.

III. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a standardized treatment protocol for the use of an AED.

IV. POLICY

All First Responders and EMT-I's utilizing an AED as part of an approved AED Service Provider within the region shall adhere to the treatment guidelines outlined in this policy.

V. PROCEDURE

A. Indications:

In order to use an AED on a patient, the patient must meet all of the following criteria:

- 1. be at least 1 year of age
- 2. be unresponsive
- 3. have absent or agonal respirations
- 4. be pulseless

B. Use of AED

- 1. Perform initial assessment. If patient is responsive, do not apply the AED.
- 2. Check for breathing and pulselessness. If patient is unresponsive and not breathing or is breathing agonally, give two ventilations using a bag-valve-mask (BVM).
- 3. Start or resume CPR.
- 4. Apply AED pads to patient's chest.

Note: If patient's age is between 1 and 8, pediatric AED pads should be used in order to provide reduced dosages of current to the patient. If pediatric AED pads are not available or the AED is not compatible with pediatric AED pads, then a standard AED should be used.

5. Stop CPR; assure that no one is touching the patient by calling out “All Clear!”
6. Activate AED to assess patient.
7. Follow prompts on AED. If shock is advised, follow the prompts on the AED, administer one shock. Assure that no one is touching the patient by calling out “All Clear!”
8. After defibrillation, following prompts on the AED, reassess patient. Check for:
 - breathing
 - pulse

If patient is not breathing, assess airway. Establish airway if necessary using airway adjuncts and proper positioning of the head and jaw to ensure an open airway. Provide artificial ventilation with high-flow oxygen.

If patient does not have a pulse, administer CPR for 2 minutes. Use AED to reassess the patient. Follow prompts on AED. If advised, deliver another shock. Reassess pulse, if no pulse administer CPR for 2 minutes. Continue the assess-CPR-defibrillate cycle until the arrival of an ALS unit.

If, after rhythm analysis, the AED advises no shock, assess pulse. If the patient has a pulse, check breathing.

If the patient is breathing adequately, administer high-flow oxygen via a non-rebreather mask.

If the patient is not breathing adequately, provide artificial ventilations with high-flow oxygen via a BVM.

9. Transfer care to an ALS crew.
10. Complete departmental AED report. Provide ALS crew with EKG strip if possible.

---END OF POLICY 551.20---