

# A.E.D. Policy P 03-c

## Medical Director Requirement for A.E.D. Use Rescinded

September 12, 2002

### Background:

There is no language in any current rule requiring a medical director for Automated External Defibrillator (AED) use. 25TAC 157.31, related to AED Training, subsection (b), states, *A medical director of an emergency medical services (EMS) system may delegate the use of an AED to certified EMS personnel who successfully complete the AED training course.*

At the time of its adoption, in 1991, the use of an AED was considered an advanced procedure and a department policy, issued 02/25/91, required medical director authorization and written delegated orders for the use of the devices by EMS personnel.

In 1999, the legislature passed House Bill 580 authorizing public access to AED's and required physician involvement only in the training for the users of the devices.

Since all levels of EMS certification include training in the use of AED's, and since no physician direction is required for the use of the device by the lay public, the continuation of this policy will create an unnecessary burden on EMS providers and First Responder Organizations. Therefore, this requirement is rescinded.

**Statute Reference:** CHAPTER 779. AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS

**Rule Reference:** 25 TAC 157.31 and 157.41. AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS

**Policy:** Previous policy, dated 02/25/91, requiring medical direction and delegated orders for the use of automated external defibrillators by EMS and First Responder personnel is immediately rescinded.

New policy is effective immediately that medical direction shall no longer be required for the use of automated external defibrillators by EMS personnel or First Responder personnel.

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Signature date October 25, 2002

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