

AHA Guidelines 2005: Managing the Transition

Because training on the new Guidelines is well underway, some hospitals have entered a transition period when existing AED prompts may not match the new training received. Below is a discussion of AHA statements clarifying what should be done during this transition period and information on how Medtronic is working to implement fully Guidelines-consistent devices across our product line.

- Is there an AHA-mandated deadline for hospitals to be consistent with the new Guidelines?
No. "...anyone who took an American Heart Association CPR or ECC course prior to the release of new guidelines does not need to take the course again until it is time for their retraining. For credentialed courses, course completion cards are recognized as valid for two years by the American Heart Association, regardless of the science changes."¹
- What do the new Guidelines discuss other than CPR?
The new Guidelines actually challenge hospitals to improve patient care in several areas beyond CPR, such as providing first defibrillating shock within 3 minutes of collapse; providing the appropriate energy dose for first and subsequent shocks; training and authorizing first responders to use an AED; monitoring collapse-to-first shock time and transmitting ECGs from the field to the hospital in order to speed reperfusion therapy. Medtronic provides an array of products and services to address the new Guidelines in all these areas.
- Our old AEDs don't match our new training. What should we do?
The AHA has said that "these new recommendations do not imply that care based on earlier guidelines is either unsafe or ineffective...including the use of AEDs that were designed to conform to those earlier guidelines."¹ To best support continuity of patient care until the devices are fully updated, hospital staff should follow the existing prompts of the AED even if this entails actions that are different from what was learned in class.
- Do rescuers follow the AED voice prompts during an actual rescue if the AED has not been updated?
Yes. "Rescuers should follow the directions of the AED they are using during the rescue. Rescuers should not turn off or interfere in any way with the AED analysis."²
- What do the Guidelines say about "CPR First" in hospitals?
The Guidelines recommend that "healthcare providers who treat cardiac arrest in hospitals and other facilities with AEDs on-site should provide immediate CPR and should use the AED/defibrillator as soon as it is available."³
- Should people stop using AEDs that are not programmed to give one shock and wait for two minutes of CPR before re-analyzing the heart rhythm?
No. "Until AED manufacturers have time to update their devices, we are encouraging all rescuers to continue to follow the voice prompts on the AED they are using."¹

- What about Medtronic manual defibrillators?

Medtronic manual external defibrillators (e.g. LIFEPAK 20 Defibrillator/Monitors operating in manual mode) can be used according to the new Guidelines.

- Why aren't all Medtronic defibrillators already consistent with the new Guidelines?

We chose to develop *cprMAX*[™] technology as an advanced platform for CPR-related Guidelines consistency in all our defibrillators. This exciting platform provides an unprecedented level of adaptability for adding future technologies to further optimize the timing and sequencing of CPR and defibrillation. We are working to incorporate *cprMAX* into our full defibrillator line as soon as possible starting with our AEDs, which are most directly affected by the new CPR-related Guidelines. In introducing *cprMAX* into all of our products, we signal our intent to remain your partner as standards of Emergency Cardiovascular Care and CPR evolve.

- When will all Medtronic defibrillators incorporate the new *cprMAX* technology?

For timing information on all products, view our Guidelines web page at: <http://www.aedhelp.com/AHA/> (click on "Product Info"). We plan for all of our AEDs and AED trainers to include *cprMAX* technology by September, with the manual products following thereafter.

At Medtronic we value our partnership with hospitals, built over 50 years of helping clinicians touch and save lives. We look forward to helping advance the science of Emergency Cardiovascular Care and CPR, and to developing new products that continue to improve patient care in this field.

¹ 2005 American Heart Association Guidelines on CPR and ECC. Frequently Asked Questions – Master List. December 7, 2005

² 2005 American Heart Association Guidelines on CPR and ECC. Frequently Asked Questions – Supplement. March 27, 2006

³ Guidelines 2005 for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care. 2005. Circulation 112, IV-35