



**American
Red Cross**

Serving King & Kitsap Counties

Incorporate “AED Use on Infants in Cardiac Arrest” into Training Courses

Following is guidance on how to incorporate American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Policy Update information regarding the use of AEDs on infants in cardiac Arrest into American Red Cross Training Courses.

Based on scientific review, the [American Red Cross Advisory Council on First Aid, Aquatics, Safety and Preparedness](#) (ACFASP) previously developed a response to address the question “Should an AED be used on an infant in cardiac arrest?”

The [response](#) is under “ACFASP Answers” in the “Ask the Expert” section of Instructor’s Corner. This updated information was included in the newly revised Babysitter’s Training ‘08 materials and will be incorporated in other CPR/AED publications as programs are revised. It should be noted that pediatric AED devices and pads were previously approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use on infants and children.

Chapters should ensure that instructors and instructor trainers have the information and incorporate it into their training courses as follows:

Modify the following Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) in the applicable instructor’s manual(s):

Q. Can AEDs be used on young children?

A. Certain AED equipment and electrode pads specifically designed to deliver lower energy levels for pediatric victims have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and are recommended by the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR) for use on cardiac arrest victims between the ages of 1 and 8.

To read:

Q. Can AEDs be used on young children and infants?

A. Certain AED equipment and electrode pads specifically designed to deliver lower energy levels for pediatric victims (infants and children) have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and are recommended for use on infants in cardiac arrest by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Replace the following FAQ:

Q: Should an AED be used on an infant who shows no signs of life?

A: The International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR) advisory statement does not currently support a recommendation for or against the use of AEDs on children under 1 year of age because there is insufficient evidence as to its effectiveness. Always follow local protocols and medical direction.

With the new FAQ:

Q: Should an AED be used on an infant in cardiac arrest?

A: Automated external defibrillators (AEDs) are appropriate for use on anyone in cardiac arrest, regardless of age, including children as young as newborns. When available, rescuers should use pediatric settings or pads when treating children and infants. If pediatric equipment is not available, rescuers may use AEDs configured for adult victims. The use of an AED should be used along with high quality CPR.

Modify the statements in the applicable instructor's manual(s):

- "An AED can be used on children between the ages of 1 and 8 or weighing less than 55 pounds," and "AEDs equipped with pediatric AED pads capable of delivering lower levels of energy to a child between the ages of 1 and 8 or weighing less than 55 pounds,"

To read:

"...infants and children under age 8 or weighing less than 55 pounds."

- Wherever "child" is used in reference to AED information or skills, it can be assumed to mean "child and infant" or "children and infants."
- Instructors should remind course participants to always follow established local protocols/medical direction and manufacturer's instructions when using an AED.

Note: there is no need or plans to create an infant AED course or certificate.

Similar information will be posted on Instructor's Corner. Contact the [Preparedness and Health and Safety Services Program Administration Unit](#) if you have any questions.

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