



HEALTH ADVISORY

May 3, 2024

NOTICE OF AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR PAD INCOMPATIBILITY

Guidance for all healthcare facilities, emergency medical services agencies, and public access defibrillation providers utilizing automated external defibrillators.

The New York State Department of Health Emergency Medical Services for Children Advisory Committee has recommended that a health advisory, based on the National Association of State EMS Officials memorandum from January 25, 2022¹, be transmitted to all healthcare providers, emergency medical services agencies, and public access defibrillation providers utilizing automated external defibrillators. The memorandum outlines a critical issue of Automated External Defibrillator (AED) pad incompatibility affecting the efficacy of pediatric emergency care.

Key Points:

1. **Zoll Pedi-pads:** These defibrillation pads are not compatible with Zoll AED Plus units². The compatible defibrillation pads for these units are the Zoll Pedi-pads II.
2. **Physio-Control LIFEPAK 15:** Non-manufacturer recommended defibrillation pads do not support the necessary therapy for certain age and weight ranges and should not be used with LP-15 units for pediatric patients. As specified in the LP15 operating instructions, AED mode is intended for use on patient eight years of age and older³.
3. **General Advisory:** Some AEDs are accompanied by pediatric pads that are not suitable for AED use. These are usually marked with specific warnings on the packaging.

Action Required:

All healthcare providers, emergency medical services agencies, and public access defibrillation providers utilizing automated external defibrillators should ensure all AED units have the correct, manufacturer-recommended pads and that all operators of AED devices are aware of these incompatibilities.

Further Information:

Refer to the attached National Association of State EMS Officials Defibrillator Pad Incompatibility Memo and the manufacturer's instructions for detailed guidelines. For additional questions, contact Amy Eisenhauer, Emergency Medical Services for Children Program Manager at amy.eisenhauer@health.ny.gov, or (518) 485-5907.

¹ National Association of EMS Officials Memorandum:

<https://nasemso.org/wp-content/uploads/Defibrillator-Pad-Incompatibility-Memo-2022-0125.pdf>

² Zoll AED Plus Administrators Guide, Page 30:

https://www.zoll.com/-/media/product-manuals/aed-plus/01-english/9650-0301-01-sf_yd.ashx

³ Lifepak 15 Operating Instructions Manual, Page 11:

https://www.stryker.com/content/dam/stryker/ems/resources/operating-instructions/international/3314911-030_int-eng_lifepak_15_operating_instructions.pdf