

For Information Only

Public Access Defibrillators

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Resolution

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Executive Summary

Since 2008, the City of Greater Sudbury Paramedic Services has partnered with the Ontario Heart and Stroke Association and placed 108 Public Access Defibrillators (PAD) in both public and City owned sites. Funding and site approval was provided by the Heart and Stroke Association through the Chase McEachern Tribute Fund. This provided each site with startup funding for an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), supplies and training for up to 10 people per unit.

Notification will be sent to all host sites advising them that as these units were donated to the sites; as of January 1, 2017, transition of full responsibility will be handed over to the host site, including the responsibility for all costs associated with the ongoing maintenance of the Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) which was previously covered by CGS Paramedic Services. The Service no longer has sufficient budgeted funds to continue to provide replacement of disposable supplies.

Since 2008, Paramedic Services has deployed 108 defibrillators across Greater Sudbury, 67 belong to City of Greater Sudbury (CGS) internal operating departments, the remaining 41 belong to external host sites. As part of the handover process, Paramedic Services will visit each host organization to provide information and details on how they can continue to maintain the PAD equipment, including checks, and ordering information for disposables such as batteries and defibrillator pads.

Although CGS Paramedic Services is handing over responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the PAD units, we will continue to provide leadership and oversight of the Greater Sudbury's PAD Program, providing support to all sites in the form of information and training, while continuing to explore opportunities to place additional PAD units in public locations across the community as funding becomes available.

Background

Signed By

Division Review

Joseph Nicholls
Deputy Chief of Emergency Services
Digitally Signed Nov 9, 16

Recommended by the Department

Trevor Bain
Chief of Fire and Paramedic Services
Digitally Signed Nov 10, 16

Recommended by the C.A.O.

Ed Archer
Chief Administrative Officer
Digitally Signed Nov 21, 16

Every year, about 40,000 Canadians suffer from Sudden Cardiac Arrests (SCA) or about one person every 13 minutes. SCAs occur when the heart unexpectedly stops beating effectively and is no longer compatible with life. Survival rates for SCA are below 5% when not treated early. Each minute a patient does not receive treatment for a SCA their survival rate decreases by 7-10%. With early CPR and defibrillation from a Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) survival rates can double if delivered in the first few minutes of a cardiac arrest. As 85% of cardiac arrest occur outside a hospital and in a home or public location, there is a great need for PADs. The Ambulance Act requires each ambulance service to have an approved Response Time Performance Plan that is reported provincially. The response time standard for CGS Paramedic Service is to arrive at a patient who is suffering from a SCA within six minutes or less, 70% of the time. As this may not always be possible, a PAD unit can arrive at the patient's side by a member of the public and potentially provide life-saving treatment to the patient until Paramedics arrive. The Heart and Stroke Foundation statistics indicate that since 2006 over 40 lives have been saved because of the implementation of the PAD program in Ontario

Public Access Defibrillators can be used by anyone, trained or not, in a health emergency to provide possible life saving treatment. The defibrillator will use both verbal and visual aids to instruct users through the proper steps to deliver life-saving treatment to the patient. When attached to the patient, the defibrillator will analyze the status of the heart to determine if the heart requires an electrical shock to attempt the restart of the heart to beat again into a life-sustaining rhythm. Anyone using a PAD in attempts to help save a life in a health emergency are protected under the Chase McEachern Act, which provides protection from civil liability when acting or failing to act while using a defibrillator.

Since 2008, the CGS Paramedic Services has partnered with the Ontario Heart and Stroke Association in placing PADs within public locations around the City of Greater Sudbury. Grant funding from the Chase McEachern Tribute Fund provided donations of 108 PAD units to host locations. These units are donated to, and remain the property of the host sites. Funding covers the cost of the defibrillator, storage cabinet, and supplies as well as training for up to 10 people for each PAD site. Training is two hours and includes instruction on the use of the PAD as well as Hands-only cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The City's Paramedic Services has since 2008 incurred the cost and responsibility to maintain and replace expired and broken equipment including batteries and defibrillation pads.

There are 108 defibrillators located across Greater Sudbury, 67 belong to CGS internal operating departments, host sites include Tom Davies Square, Lionel E. Lalonde Centre, Transit Station, arenas and fitness centres. The remaining 41 belong to external host sites including local schools, campers' associations. None of the PAD units deployed in this program have yet been used to defibrillate a patient suffering from a sudden cardiac arrest.

The maintenance of a PAD site includes daily/weekly equipment checks and replacement of the batteries and defibrillator pads both of which have a life span of approximately five years. The replacement of these disposables would be under \$500 every five years, or \$100 annually per unit. Paramedic Services in partnership with host sites will continue to replace any disposable equipment required when the PAD units are used in the treatment of a cardiac emergency.

Letters regarding the change in process will be sent out to each host site outlining that as of January 1, 2017, the CGS Sudbury Paramedic Services will no longer be providing maintenance and replacement cost of supplies and equipment unless it was used in a health emergency.

To ensure that all sites are maintained in a suitable state of readiness, CGS Paramedic Services will provide a final site visit and a recommendation as to the location of the defibrillator. A free equipment tracking program which tracks equipment expiry dates and provides recommendations on replacing supplies will also be provided to the host sites. This program allows the host sites to order supplies directly when

required.

Any future PAD unit additions will follow this self-maintenance program following initial set up, orientation and training.