



St. John Ambulance Saint-Jean

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DATE: October 2001

TO: Provincial Community Services Staff, District Commissioners, District Chairs, District Managers, Branches, Patient Care Provider Units, Campus Response Team Units

c: National Medical Officer, Provincial Training Officer, Manager, Training

FROM: Dr. Edward Wasser, Provincial Medical Officer

RE: AED Use – St. John Ambulance Patient Care Providers

Further to the many queries and questions on AED use, I would like to clarify the following points on using an AED while involved in a St. John Ambulance duty:

A qualified St. John Ambulance Patient Care Provider can be trained and certified on all three licensed AED devices (HP, Medtronic-PhysioControl, Survivalink); one is not restricted to training on only one device. A member must, however, be certified on each device type separately (HP, Medtronic-PhysioControl, Survivalink) by an instructor before using any device.

When certified on a device type (e.g.: Medtronic-PhysioControl 500), you can use any device of that make and model (e.g.: Medtronic-PhysioControl 500 unit) at a St. John Ambulance sanctioned duty. You do not have to use the actual machine that you were trained and certified on.

Once a St. John Ambulance Patient Care Provider has been certified on a device, he/she is allowed to use the device “while involved at a duty”. That is to say, that if a member is driving “to a duty” or “from a duty”, he/she can use the device they are certified on should they happen upon an incident requiring AED use.

One cannot use a St. John Ambulance device if not involved in a duty. That is to say, one cannot “scan” an emergency call or bring the device with them outside being involved in a duty. Such an action will result in immediate decertification by the AED Medical Director.

While I can appreciate that there are many questions as this new program gains momentum and success, please direct your questions to the Provincial Medical Officer, c/o Community Services Department, St. John Ambulance, Council for Ontario.

Thanks.