

american **CAMP** association®

Responses to Questions Raised at COD meeting, February 2009

Introduction/Background:

When the current standards were accepted in 2006 for implementation in 2007, there was significant discussion regarding how the Standards requesting a camp to have/have access to an AED be worded. As currently stated, the standard requests a camp assess their need for an AED. Over the past two years, additional research has been done to show the effectiveness of the use of an AED on children, the cost of AEDs has dropped significantly, much legislation has been enacted and/or updated and the public perception for the availability of an AED has increased

The National Standards Commission feels it is now time to strengthen this Standard as stated in the "ISSUE" below.

ISSUE:

The current ACA Standard regarding AEDs states (HW-17): "Has the camp assessed the need for an AED (automated external defibrillator) at the camp location?"

The NSC feels it is time to revisit the question: Does the camp have access to an AED based on a written plan which includes:

- the location of the AED
 - description of process to access the AED
 - length of time it takes for the AED to be accessed
 - availability of trained personnel and
 - Potential activities where an AED might be needed?

Rationale: The revised standard allows the camp to determine what is most appropriate for its specific situation in addressing the need of an AED. The location of the AED may or may not be on site and may or may not be provided by the camp. This Standard will not apply to trip/travel programs and other off-site programs.

If approved, this standard would become effective in 2010.

This topic was introduced at the Council of Delegates meeting in Orlando in February 2009. Individuals were provided the opportunity to ask questions and raise concerns by submitting note cards with their comments/questions. Below is a summary of those questions with a response.

What is the industry standard between time of incident and use of the AED?

Authoritative sources indicated that for the most effective use, a shock must be administered within 3-5 minutes of sudden cardiac arrest.

Additional Resources regarding placement, time of response and evaluation of where to place AED:

<http://www.ohsonline.com/Articles/2003/12/Assessing-Your-AED-Needs.aspx>;
http://www.aedresponse.com/wst_page5.html ; <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/aed/solutions.html>
http://www.acacamps.org/profmembers/campline/06s_cardiac.php
<http://www.acacamps.org/members/knowledge/risk/cm/0601rmerceg.php>

Can ACA work with providers of AED units to establish a "group purchasing" arrangement?

This is something ACA will continue to pursue. At this time, there are several ACA Business Affiliate members that offer AEDs for significant savings (below \$1000).

What type of liability would a camp incur if they were unable to provide an AED as per their assessment/plan indicated?

This is an issue ACA will explore with legal counsel. It is something each camp will also need to explore with their legal counsel as well.

What if a camp assesses their need for an AED and based on their location, activities, risk factors, etc, they determine they do NOT need to have an AED onsite?

All of this would need to be outlined in the camp's assessment and plan based on that assessment. As stated earlier, the AED is not required to be on-site.

How do you determine activities where an AED might be needed?

Research has shown that in youth, activities such swimming and being hit in the chest with a blunt object (such as lacrosse ball, baseball, etc) are the activities where a sudden cardiac arrest is more likely to occur (than other activities).

Supportive information: <http://www.redwoodsgroup.com/jcos/RiskManagement/JLesson03.asp>
<http://www.momsteam.com/protecting-our-children-against-sudden-cardiac-death>

Google: AED and Youth Sports for a significant amount of information

Will this standard be mandatory? Will it become mandatory? What process is used to determine if a standard becomes mandatory?

At this time, the National Standards Commission is not proposing this standard as one of the mandatory standards. For a standard to be considered for mandatory status, the following criteria must be met: The requirement of the standard relates directly to the immediate threat of life or potential serious injury of campers and staff AND for all camps to which the standard is applicable, compliance must be reasonably practicable to attain.

Additional questions and comments are welcome. They may be posted on the COD Governance Discussion Board.