




STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Joe Manchin III
Governor

Martha Yeager Walker
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Licensed EMS Agencies
Regional Program Directors
Regional Medical Directors
All STO's

FROM: William D. Ramsey, M.D.
State EMS Medical Director 

DATE: February 19, 2007

RE: AED Software Updates and New AHA Guidelines

As many of you are aware, the software for updating existing AED's to the new 2005 AHA Guidelines is now available. Obviously it will take some time for all AED's to be updated including those deployed in public places. Consequently, First Responders and EMT-B's may encounter both old and new devices during this transition period. In addition, as responders update their CPR training they will be trained in the new guidelines. The following guidelines should be utilized during this transition period:

1. Software upgrades to existing AED's should be done as soon as it is convenient and possible. If the AED is being accessed for calibration, etc, it can be updated at that time.
2. As First Responders and EMT-B's are trained in the new CPR guidelines they should begin to utilize them. Since the responder may encounter either updated or non-updated AED's, the best approach is to follow the instructions as directed by the AED. This is the same policy utilized and recommended by the AHA nationally as well.
3. The AHA Guideline Update Work Group of the State MPCC has completed the integration of the new AHA guidelines into all West Virginia State EMS Protocols including First Responder, EMT-B, EMT-I, and EMT-P. The nature and impact of the new guidelines for ALS providers (EMT-P and EMT-I) is more complex and the potential for confusion in

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treatment between providers dictates that the ALS treatments be continued per State 4000 and 5000 series protocols. The new 4000 and 5000 series protocols will go into effect after approval by the State MPCC no later than the April 2007 meeting. **Providers at all levels may begin using the new AHA BLS guidelines as soon as they are trained.**

If you have further questions concerning this process please do not hesitate to contact me or your regional office. You may access the FAQ's on the OEMS web site as well.

Thank you again for all you do to assist in providing quality emergency care for the citizens of West Virginia.

WDR/nll