POLICY STATEMENT (R*)

Florida International University (FIU) has instituted an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Program that makes AEDs available throughout the FIU campuses. AEDs are used to treat people who experience sudden cardiac arrest by administering a controlled electrical charge to the heart in order to restore a viable cardiac rhythm. The AED Program is overseen and maintained by the Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS). No department or unit is authorized to purchase, install or maintain an AED device in any University facility without the written authorization of EHS’s Director or his/her designee.

EHS will not be responsible for AEDs that are not part of the University’s official AED program. Unauthorized AEDs found on the University campuses may be removed at the discretion of EHS. Exception will be made for the Faculty Health Practice and Student Health Services, who oversee their AED Programs, as well as the College of Medicine and the College of Nursing & Health Sciences, who use AEDs for the sole purpose of education and training of students.

LIABILITY PROTECTION & GOOD SAMARITAN LAWS

Florida and federal laws afford civil liability protection to users of AEDs and for those who obtain and maintain AEDs in accordance with the each of the cited authorities listed in the “Related Information” section of this policy.

See Program Procedures section (v.) below for use of an AED on victims weighing less than 55 pounds or less than 8 years of age.

REASON FOR POLICY (O*)

Each year, a large number of adult Americans die from cardiovascular disease in the United States. At least a quarter of those Americans die of sudden cardiac arrest before they reach a hospital. Many of these lives can be saved if a person quickly phones 911 and begins Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), and if trained responders provide defibrillation within minutes. FIU is committed to increasing the survival rate of those individuals who may be experiencing sudden cardiac arrest, by providing awareness, encouraging training, and maintaining quality program management in Automated External Defibrillation.

The intent of this policy is to provide oversight for the maintenance and use of AEDs on the FIU campuses and to provide information about the responsibilities of various FIU offices and/or personnel. No portion of this policy shall supersede the sound judgment of individuals using AEDs during a perceived medical emergency.

RELATED INFORMATION (O*)

Florida International University (FIU) Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Program
Florida Statutes: Automated External Defibrillators (§ 401.2915); Cardiac Arrest Survival Act (§ 768.1325); Good Samaritan Act (§ 768.13)
Guidelines for Automated External Defibrillators (AED) in State Owned or Leased Facilities (64J-1.023)
Cardiac Arrest Survival Act (CASA: 42 USC 201)

DEFINITIONS (R*)

Automated External Defibrillator (AED) means a lifesaving defibrillator medical equipment that meets each of the following conditions:

1. Is commercially distributed in accordance with the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FDA).
2. Is capable of recognizing the presence or absence of ventricular fibrillation, and is capable of determining without intervention by the user of the device whether defibrillation should be performed.
3. Upon determining that defibrillation should be performed, is able to deliver an electrical shock to an individual.

Defibrillation means the administration of a controlled electrical charge to the heart to restore a viable cardiac rhythm.

CPR means Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation, which is an emergency procedure for a person whose heart has stopped or is no longer breathing, consisting of chest compressions and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Perceived Medical Emergency means circumstances in which the behavior of an individual leads a reasonable person to believe that the individual is experiencing a life-threatening medical condition that requires an immediate medical response regarding the heart or other cardiopulmonary functioning of the individual.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest means a sudden or unexpected cessation of heart function, most often caused by a sudden arrhythmia, such as Ventricular Fibrillation (VF), which is the most common arrhythmia among cardiac arrest victims; during VF the heart’s electrical impulses suddenly become chaotic and ineffective.

Victim means the individual who is experiencing a perceived medical emergency, as defined above.

**PROCEDURES (O*)**

**FIU Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Program:**

The purchase, maintenance, training of personnel, and use of and reporting requirements for AEDs are designed to address the responsibilities and procedures outlined in this policy; the FIU Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Program; and with applicable state, federal, or municipal laws or agreements. The procedures were created based on American Red Cross and/or American Heart Association guidelines.

**Program Procedures:**

i. In a perceived medical emergency in which an individual is experiencing a life-threatening cardiovascular medical condition, you should immediately dial the University Police Department at:
   - MMC/Engineering Campus: (305) 348-5911
   - BBC: (305) 919-5911
   - All Other FIU Campuses: 911

ii. You should then proceed to administer CPR (if necessary) and medical first aid, in accordance with the level of training received.

iii. If the individual is non-responsive and not breathing and shows no signs of circulation, you should retrieve the nearest AED (normally on 1st floor, near main elevator of occupied buildings).

iv. **Follow the instructions from the AED unit, and the FIU AED Program manual guidelines** (found on the EHS website) pertaining to the use and post-use of an AED.

v. In the absence of equipment meant for use on victims weighing less than 55 pounds or less than 8 years of age the use of an adult AED is permitted by nationally recognized standards – **Follow the instructions from the FIU AED Program manual guidelines** (found on the EHS website) for use of an AED on such victims.

**RESPONSIBILITIES (O*)**

I. **Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S):**
   a. Provides AED Program Coordination.
   b. Designates a licensed Medical Professional who will provide oversight to the AED program.
   c. Determines the number, locations, placement, and access system for AEDs with the consultation of the oversight medical professional.
   d. Oversees maintenance of AEDs; periodic inspection and testing of the AED units; provides and restocks supplies and accessories as needed.
   e. Maintains an inspection log for purposes of reporting loss or damage to an AED or signs of AED inoperability or malfunction.
f. Inventories AEDs and records their locations, which will be made available to the University Police Department, the local emergency medical services (911 Dispatch), and the general public.
g. Establishes the AED Quality Assurance (QA) requirements in the FIU Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Program.
h. Oversees training required for completion of a course in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and use of an AED.

II. Medical Professional:
   a. The designated Medical Professional (MP) will oversee medical control, program development, and implementation of the AED program.
   b. An AED can only be obtained by a prescription from a licensed physician. The prescription must be made by the University’s designated MP through EHS.
   c. In conjunction with FIU Police Department and Environmental Health & Safety the MP is responsible for establishing response procedures, as well as a quality improvement plan.
   d. Contact information for the MP will be contained in the “Medical Oversight” section of the FIU Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Program.

III. Responsibilities for Departmental AED User shall include:
   a. Compliance with the requirements of this policy and procedures outlined in the FIU Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Program.
   b. Successful completion of CPR and AED training and retraining.
   c. Following all post-AED reporting and quality management procedures as outlined in the FIU Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Program.

IV. Other FIU Personnel:
   a. FIU personnel should complete an AED/CPR training course prior to using an AED on an individual who is perceived to be experiencing cardiac arrest.
   b. However, pursuant to Florida law, in a perceived emergency, any person, with or without certification or training, at their own discretion, under extreme circumstance where no trained personnel are immediately available, may voluntarily use an AED for the purpose of saving the life of another person in cardiac arrest.

V. University Police Department:
   a. Responds to calls of AED usage pertaining to medical emergencies.
   b. Coordinates incident response with the local emergency medical services (911 Dispatch).

The University Policies and Procedures Library is updated regularly. In order to ensure a printed copy of this document is current, please access it online at http://policies.fiu.edu/.

For any questions or comments, the “Document Details” view for this policy online provides complete contact information.

Links to the above referenced Form(s) available in the “Document Details” Section of the online version of this policy document.

*R = Required    *O = Optional