

## FAQ on AEDs For Homes - Featuring FirstSave AED -

### Why do we need an AED in our home, we're healthy?

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) — or massive heart attack — as it is sometimes known, which kills 450,000 people in the U.S. alone each year, can strike anyone and more than 70% of SCA occur at home. Even a seemingly healthy person can suffer cardiac arrest without warning. According to the American Heart Association (AHA), as many as 50% of SCA victims have no prior indication of heart disease — their first symptom is cardiac arrest.



There are various risk factors for sudden cardiac arrest. Some of these are: Age (45 and over), Smoking, Poor diet, Lack of exercise etc and in rare cases SCA can result from drowning, electrocution or choking and trauma. In fact, more die from SCA than from breast cancer, prostate cancer, AIDS, house fires, handguns and traffic accidents combined.

### Why can't we just call 911?

The only definitive treatment for SCA is a defibrillation shock — an electrical pulse through the heart — which restores a normal heart rhythm. The chance of an SCA victim's survival decreases by 10 percent with every minute that passes, so in order to be effective, defibrillation treatment must be administered within the first few minutes of SCA.

In its publication, "Guidelines 2000 for CPR and Emergency Cardiac Care," the AHA recommends defibrillation within 3-5 minutes for emergency response outside the hospital. Recently published studies in the New England Journal of Medicine further support that recommendation, with results that show a 74 percent survival rate for victims defibrillated within three minutes. But for most people in the U.S., it takes at least 6 minutes for emergency help to arrive on the scene. Add to this the time from collapse to call, as well as any other potential delays, and it's clear why a logical place for defibrillators is in the home, where they can be quickly and easily accessed in an emergency.

### Will CPR work just as well as an AED?

When sudden cardiac arrest strikes, the electrical system of the heart short-circuits, causing an abnormal rhythm known as ventricular fibrillation. Shocking the heart (defibrillation) is the only way to effectively treat this abnormal heart rhythm. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) can buy time for someone in cardiac arrest, but only a defibrillator can deliver a potentially life-saving shock.

### Are AEDs easy to use?

Extremely. Automated external defibrillators are designed for use by virtually anyone with minimal training. Cardiac Science's FirstSave® and Powerheart® AEDs are the only AEDs with patented, one-button operation and pre-connected, self-testing, interchangeable electrodes, making FirstSave and Powerheart the easiest AEDs to use. In addition, these are the only AEDs that can provide continuous monitoring capabilities during and after cardiac arrest, thereby protecting the victim against the reoccurrence of a life-threatening arrhythmia following resuscitation.

**What additional training is required?**

In many cases, a simple course including CPR and AED training is all that is required. For example, AEDEverywhere offers the American Heart Association's Heartsaver™ AED course, which can be completed in about four hours. Training requirements vary, so contact AEDEverywhere for more information on your state's unique requirements.

**What liability do we incur by having an AED in our home?**

As a result of their easy-to-use design, Cardiac Science's AEDs reduce the risk of operator misuse. Consequently, if the AED is used in accordance with the directions in the manual, proper training, usage protocols and medical direction, the risk of liability from using it is minimal. The laws surrounding AED usage vary from state to state. All states in the U.S. but one have passed Good Samaritan laws with language about AEDs. Additionally, the Cardiac Arrest Survival Act, which was passed by Congress and signed by President Clinton in 2000, provides AED users and acquirers with protection from liability. This and similar legislation underway is helping to make AEDs the standard of care for SCA.

**What is the cost to purchase and maintain an AED?**

An AED from Cardiac Science costs about the same as a well-equipped laptop computer. With its warranty and five-year battery, these AEDs offers a very low cost of ownership throughout the life of the AED. An AEDEverywhere sales professional can provide more information about specific options and costs.

**Where would we place our AEDs?**

The AED's convenient delivery systems allow for mobile and stationary placement throughout a home to support the 3-5 minute response time recommended by the AHA. Wherever your AEDs are placed, they should be visible and easily accessible.