



South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS
Foundation Trust
Nexus House
Gatwick Road
Crawley
RH10 9BG

Date 15th November 2017

Email:

Email: foi@secamb.nhs.uk

Dear,

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/17/10/05.

You requested the following information, please see our response below:

Statistical information/evidence regarding the success of the defibrillators in the general locality (Maidstone)

We do not collect statistical evidence regarding the success of defibrillators in particular areas.

However, according to the Resuscitation Council UK ALS Manual 7th Edition approximately 20-25% of sudden cardiac arrests present with a shockable rhythm. Where no shock is delivered and no bystander CPR is undertaken survival drops by 7-10% for every minute the patient is in cardiac arrest. This information is also recognised internationally i.e. American Heart Association and European Resuscitation Council

The machine models recommended for a village of approximately 750 people, of a broad range

Whilst Cardiac Science, Physio-Control and Wel Medical have all agreed to offer customers in the South East a discounted price for an Automated External Defibrillator if they mention that they have made contact with the ambulance service, we do not recommend a specific model or device.

The positioning of the defibrillators within a village

We recommend that defibrillators are sited on the outside of buildings in an unlocked cabinet, and in a position where they are visible from the public road or footpath if possible, so that they are easily accessible to the public. It can be helpful if they are placed on public buildings, e.g. council offices, post offices, libraries, and well known local shops as well.

We would like to know if your AED is publicly accessible – in this instance it is called a Public Access Defibrillator site (PAD site). This enables us in an emergency to refer a caller to the nearest AED to the patient. Therefore if a public access defibrillator (PAD) site is set up, please contact us via pad@secamb.nhs.uk and we will send you a registration form.

Guidance with regards to training people in using the machines

No formal training is required to be able to use a defibrillator, the AED 'talks' the user through the necessary steps, and will not deliver a shock unless it is necessary. However, we recognise that it can build confidence to have someone demonstrate how an AED works. If you are interested in training provided by the ambulance service, please let us know by emailing

enquiries@secamb.nhs.uk

Any grants of funding which may be available for the purchase of machines

It may be possible to approach the Rotary and Lions Clubs to request financial support with a purchase. You may also make enquiries of the British Heart Foundation, Arrhythmia Alliance and Community Heartbeat Trust. Each organisation will have their local criteria for projects that they support.

I hope you find this information of some assistance.

If for any reason you are dissatisfied with our response, kindly in the first instance contact Caroline Smart, Information Governance Manager via the following email address:

FOI@secamb.nhs.uk

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Coordinator
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust