

# Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

## II-26 DEFIBRILLATION AND CARDIOVERSION

1. Policy:
  - 1.1. To establish guidelines for defibrillation and/or counter shock for the patient experiencing lethal arrhythmias.
2. Equipment needed:
  - 2.1. Gloves and full face protection.
  - 2.2. ECG monitor and defibrillation.
  - 2.3. ECG electrodes.
  - 2.4. Conduction gel or defibrillation pads.
3. Procedure:
  - 3.1. Put on gloves.
  - 3.2. Determine whether there has been any splattering of blood or body fluids.
    - 3.2.1. If so put on full face protection.
  - 3.3. Apply ECG electrodes in the usual manner or use the “quick look” paddles to confirm rhythm.
  - 3.4. If rhythm shown is one in which defibrillation is indicated, confirm absence of pulses, and proceed below:
    - 3.4.1. Turn and charge defibrillator to appropriate energy level.
    - 3.4.2. Apply conductive gel to paddles:
      - 3.4.2.1. If using gel, make sure that entire surface of paddles are covered.
      - 3.4.2.2. Or place defibrillator gel pads on chest where paddles will be used.
    - 3.4.3. Place paddles on patient’s chest in the correct position.
      - 3.4.3.1. One paddle is placed over the right sternal border at the 2<sup>nd</sup> intercostal space and one over the apex of the heart.
    - 3.4.4. Insure that no one is in direct or indirect contact with the patient and advise all team members to “clear”.
    - 3.4.5. Push the button on the paddles to defibrillate the patient while simultaneously applying 25 pounds of firm pressure.
    - 3.4.6. Re-evaluate the ECG rhythm and pulses and continue care as directed by local protocols.
  - 3.5. If rhythm shown is one in which Cardioversion is indicated, proceed below:
    - 3.5.1. Turn on and charge defibrillator to appropriate energy level.
    - 3.5.2. Apply conductive gel to paddles:
      - 3.5.2.1. If using gel, make sure that entire surface of paddles are covered.
      - 3.5.2.2. Or place defibrillator gel pads on chest where paddles will be used.
    - 3.5.3. One paddle is placed over the right sternal border at the 2<sup>nd</sup> intercostal space and one over the apex of the heart.
    - 3.5.4. Push the “Synch” button on the monitor.
    - 3.5.5. Insure that no one is in direct or indirect contact with the patient and advise all team members to “clear”.
    - 3.5.6. Push the button on the paddles to cardiovert the patient while simultaneously applying 25 pounds of pressure.
    - 3.5.7. Re-evaluate the ECG rhythm and pulses and continue care as directed by local protocols.

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## II-26 DEFIBRILLATION AND CARDIOVERSION (continued)

4. Documentation:
  - 4.1. Indication for procedure.
  - 4.2. Watt seconds utilized and change in rhythm if any following each defibrillation and/or cardioversion.
    - 4.2.1. Note the time for each on the rhythm strip and the corresponding run ticket.
  - 4.3. Patients condition following procedure.
  - 4.4. Who performed procedure.
  - 4.5. Time of procedure.
  - 4.6. PPE and equipment used.