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What are Public Access Defibrillator Schemes (PADS) ?



Public Access Defibrillator Scheme (PADS)

The Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust (WAST) works in partnership with other organisations including the Welsh Government, British Heart Foundation, Welsh Hearts and Achub Calon Y Dyffryn to provide equipment and training under the Public Access Defibrillator Scheme (PADS)

There are 36 Welsh Government funded PAD sites and over 3500 self funded or charity funded sites currently in Wales.

The Welsh Ambulance Service facilitates familiarisation courses in basic life support and use of the defibrillator.

The defibrillators are now accessible in locations such as railway stations, leisure centres, shopping centres, many village communities and even on top of Snowdon.

National PADS Officer Gerard Rothwell, based at Welsh Blood Service Pontyclun oversees the development of existing and new schemes across the country along with his colleague PADS Support Officer Tomos Hughes based in North Wales.

If you require any information regarding PADS please contact Gerard Rothwell on 07734 716766

What is PADS?

A Public Access Defibrillation Scheme (PADS) is any location that has an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) available for use by members of the public and/or staff in the event of a sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA).



Why do we need PAD Schemes?

Around 8,000 people in Wales suffer a sudden cardiac arrest every year.

A patient's chance of surviving a cardiac arrest decreases by an estimated 10% with every passing minute without intervention.

Following the release of the Welsh Government *Out of Hospital Cardiac Plan* which outlines how more lives can be saved by raising awareness of resuscitation and ensuring cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and early defibrillation are undertaken, in 2018 Health Secretary Vaughan Gething announced funding to support Save a Life Cymru project. A scheme to improve access to CPR training and increase the awareness and use of defibrillators which will encourage more people across Wales to learn and use lifesaving skills.

What is Sudden Cardiac Arrest?

A cardiac arrest occurs when the heart stops beating effectively and normal breathing ceases. This results in the casualty becoming unresponsive and urgent intervention is required. The chances of survival are greatly increased when an AED is applied.

What is an AED?

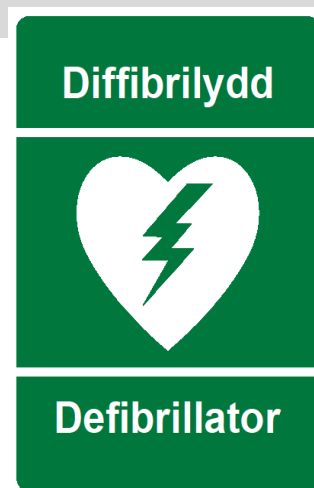
Automated External Defibrillator's (AED) are devices that can deliver an electric shock to a casualty in a cardiac arrest. These devices are simple and safe to use. Training is recommended but is not essential.



Where are AEDs Located?

AED's have been placed at locations across Wales usually where there are large visitor numbers and busy areas.

WAST has concentrated on locations such as airports, shopping centres, railway stations, leisure centres and ferry ports.



There are many other AED locations that have been provided by other organisations and communities across Wales and new schemes continue to be developed.

For details of existing Defibrillator locations visit:

www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk and click on 'Local services'.

Where can I get an AED from?

There are two main options:

Option 1:

Purchase an AED from the manufacturer or a commercial supplier (see types and recommendations).

Option 2:

Apply for part-funding towards the cost of an AED through charities. Some of these are listed below:

British Heart Foundation: www.bhf.org.uk

My Cariad (Wales): www.mycariad.org

Welsh Hearts Wales: <https://welshhearts.org>

Achub Calon Y Dyffryn (Wales)

SADS UK(England): <http://sadsuk.org.uk/newsite/>

Heartbeat UK (England): <http://www.heartbeat-nwcc.org.uk/>

Community Heartbeat Trust:

(England) <http://www.communityheartbeat.org.uk/>

How much does an AED cost and which one should we buy?



AED costs vary but **most** units can be purchased within a range of £800 to £1200.

WAST recommend the Zoll AED Plus defibrillator, and the WelMedical iPad SP1 defibrillator. These AED's are recommended by the British Heart Foundation and are increasingly found at many locations in Wales, such as schools, shopping centres, GP surgeries, leisure centres etc.

Please see links below for more information:

Zoll Medical Corporation

<http://www.zoll.com/uk/medical-products/automated-external-defibrillators/aed-plus/?langtype=2057>

Wel Medical Limited

<http://www.welmedical.com/iPAD-Saver-Semi-Automatic-AED>

St John Cymru Wales

<https://supplies.stjohnwales.org.uk/>

Responsibilities



The responsibility for the AED usually lies with the purchaser and/or receiver of the unit. These include:

- Daily checks (recommended) of unit status indicator (showing that the AED is in an operable state).
- Ensuring electrode pads are in date and therefore suitable for use (typically 2 - 5 years shelf life). Electrode pads for the Zoll AED Plus are provided free of cost by WAST.
- Replacement of battery or batteries when they are discharged (typically after 4 - 5 years). Batteries for the Zoll AED Plus are provided free of cost by WAST.
- Notifying WAST when the AED has been used (as soon as possible following an incident).
- Although WAST are not responsible for the AED, we are available for advice and support.

Notifying WAST

When an AED is sited at a location, we need to have this information to notify our Clinical Contact Centres and the PADS Department.

You can register an AED location by visiting <https://bit.ly/1y04bKS> or by contacting Gerard Rothwell on 07734 716766 or by email: gerard.rothwell@wales.nhs.uk

We also need to be informed if the AED has been deployed. You can contact us by email Gerard.Rothwell@wales.nhs.uk or tomos.hughes@wales.nhs.uk (North Wales)

Ongoing costs etc.

Ongoing costs are usually the replacement of electrode pads and batteries. Sometimes a fault may develop within the unit and a “service required” message may be indicated. This may incur a cost if the unit is out of warranty. If the unit is a Zoll AED Plus, WAST will supply the electrode pads and batteries free of cost.

Warranty Periods

Manufacturer’s warranty period (for Zoll) is 5 years but can be extended to 7 years when the unit is registered with the manufacturer.



If the AED develops a fault in the warranty period, the manufacturer will respond accordingly.

Legalities

Can a person be sued for using an AED or what if I do something wrong?

These are common questions. In the UK there have been no successful prosecutions of a person who has tried to help another person. An AED can only improve a situation when a sudden cardiac arrest has occurred.

For more information, see link below:

www.resus.org.uk/pages/legal.pdf

Training

AED's are designed to be used by anyone whether they have received training or not. Nobody should be prevented from accessing an AED at any time.

Training is not a requirement, however those who have received training should be more confident to deploy the unit. WAST offer defibrillator familiarisation courses for which there is no cost. For more information contact Gerard Rothwell on 07734 716766.

Cabinets

Various cabinets are available for storing an AED. As a basic guide there are three options:



A simple wall bracket, sleeve or hooks (which can be purchased for little cost from a DIY store) which provide a support for the AED suitable for an internal location, such as a room or supervised reception area.

Example of a wall bracket.

Product shown Zoll Part No: 8000-0809



Product shown:

Bracket, Wall Mounting, for iPad SP1 AED (single)

Internal wall-mounted cabinet



These usually have a door-opening alarm to alert those nearby the unit has been accessed. They are suitable for locations that do not usually have very low temperatures and/or are exposed to wind chill conditions.

Example of a wall-mounted internal cabinet

Product shown Zoll Part No: 8000-0855



Product shown:

WelMedical Indoor Wall Mounted Cabinet for the iPad SP1

External wall-mounted cabinet



These have a heating element which activates when temperatures are low. They require an electricity supply and must be installed according to manufacturers recommendations.

Example of External Heated Cabinet with alarm

Product Aivia 2A210XX101



Product shown:

DefibSafe External Heated Cabinet with Alarm



Product shown:

SADS UK External Heated Cabinet with Alarm

For up to date prices and more information, please contact the manufacturers and/or distributors.

Please note: WAST do not recommend using a locked cabinet, which is also the recommendation stated by the BHF and Resuscitation Council UK.

Contact Us

Please contact the PADS Officer Gerard Rothwell on 07734716766 or Tomos Hughes 07976766872 (North Wales) if an AED has been used, or for any further advice.

Email: gerard.rothwell@wales.nhs.uk
or tomos.hughes@wales.nhs.uk

If you would like to share your experience of using an AED or have had an AED used on you. Please get in touch and share your story with us.