



**Please find below information that will assist you in setting up a  
Community Public Access Defibrillator site (CPAD site).**

**Q: What is a CPAD Site?**

**A:** A CPAD site is a **C**ommunity **P**ublic **A**ccessible **D**efibrillator that can be sited anywhere within any location that is easily accessible 24 hours a day. We recommend that the cabinet that houses the defibrillator is fitted with a key code locked door that ensures the defibrillator is safe from theft and vandalism. The cabinet will require a mains power supply for the thermostatically controlled heater that helps to protect the defibrillator from the frost and cold as well as the supply of an internally fitted light.

**Q: Do we need a CPAD site in our village?**

**A:** Sudden cardiac arrest claims around 150,000- 200,000 lives each year in the United Kingdom, with survival rates being around 5% - 10% outside of a hospital setting.

If a person's heart has stopped due to an accident or heart attack and is in a rhythm called ventricular fibrillation, the only way to get the heart into a more regular sustaining beat is to pass an electrical charge through the heart muscle. The first three to four minutes are the most vital for the collapsed person and, if Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (**CPR**) and a **DEFIBRILLATOR** are available, then the chance of survival will increase considerably.

**Q: Where can a CPAD site be fitted?**

**A:** The cabinet can be fitted to the external wall of any building such as a Public House, shop, village hall, community centre etc.

The only point that needs to be considered is that it is easily accessible, well illuminated, has access to an electrical power supply and that there is room to park safely in the event that a person has to drive to collect the defibrillator.

**Q: How does a CPAD site work?**

**A:** In the event of a person collapsing you will still need to dial 999 to call for the ambulance. The ambulance service will direct the caller to where the nearest CPAD site is and will give the caller the key code for the cabinet.

The ambulance service will have all addresses logged within the town/village location so will be able to direct the caller to the exact location of where the CPAD site is.

Each CPAD site covers an area of 1 sq. mile so when setting up a CPAD site you will need to consider how many you will require

**Q: Do I need training in the use of a defibrillator?**

**A:** The UK resuscitation council guidelines state that there is no requirement to be trained in the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and that in the event of a person collapsing the non-trained person should still use the AED as the step by step voice prompts that are part of the AED talks the user through the process of what to do.

However, training should be encouraged for those who would be interested in learning how to do Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and the use of an AED. Training courses are readily available from a number of different training companies as well as via the Ambulance Service Commercial Training Department.

**Q: Is there any risk in the use of an AED?**

**A:** If someone is having a cardiac arrest, using an AED and undertaking CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) will improve the chances of survival. Automated External Defibrillators (AED's) are really safe to use. There have never been any reports of an AED harming the patient, user or bystander. In addition there have been no reports of an AED delivering any inappropriate shocks.

**Q: If I set up a CPAD Site what equipment will I get?**

**A:** Depending upon supplier, we recommend you purchase (dependent upon location) a heated mild steel, stainless steel or aluminium cabinet that should be vandal resistant and IP65 rated. It should have a thermostatically controlled heater as well as lighting and indicator lamp. The purpose of having a heated cabinet is to ensure the AED pads do not become frozen when the temperature drops below 5 degrees. The cabinet will need to be fitted and installed by a suitably qualified electrician. Please note the defibrillator does not require a power supply as they are normally supplied with a lithium battery that does not require charging. Dependent on your choice of AED, your supplier will give you product information regarding frequency of battery and AED pad replacement. We recommend that the defibrillator is supplied with a spare set of AED pads, as well as a towel, razor, pocket mask, scissors and a pair of disposable gloves.

**Q: Where can I get a CPAD site package from and how much do they cost?**

**A:** There are a number of companies that can supply you with a cabinet and AED. Our commercial services and training department, who have links to a number of AED & cabinet manufacturers can supply a complete package of AED, cabinet as well as training if required.

**We strongly recommend that you research this area before you make your final decision.**

[commercial.training@eastamb.nhs.uk](mailto:commercial.training@eastamb.nhs.uk)

We would estimate that your community would need to budget around £2,000 to set up a CPAD site.

**Q: Are there any on-going costs?**

**A:** On-going running costs will depend on the make and model of AED and cabinet you chose. Most AED pads have an expiry date of 18 months, and most AEDs require battery replacement within 4 years of purchase. Ask your supplier for more information on maintaining your specific AED model.

If you purchased the CPAD site package (AED & Cabinet) you are responsible for the ongoing cost, maintenance and replacement of equipment (battery, pads and other consumables) unless the Ambulance Service supplied and retains ownership of the CPAD site equipment.

If the ambulance service supplied and retains ownership of the CPAD site you will still be responsible for the maintenance of the site which will include the custodian role as detailed below

**Q: Who looks after the CPAD site?**

**A:** We would recommend that you appoint a ‘custodian’ for your CPAD site. The role of the custodian will be to ensure the weekly/monthly/yearly checks are undertaken on the AED in line with the manufacturer’s guidance.

The checks will include carrying out any maintenance tasks such as replacing expired batteries, electrode pads, and other consumable items (razor, pocket mask, scissors, disposable gloves etc.) as well as keeping the AED clean.

All AED’s undertake a self-analysis check every 24 hours and if a problem is detected it will be indicated by a warning sign, flashing light on the front of the machine or by a beeping sound. We recommend that you have a process in place for your CPAD site to be checked regularly and frequently and have measures in place in the event this issue occurs and that appropriate action can be taken when necessary.

The custodian will also be responsible for checking to ensure the cabinet is clean, the thermostatically controlled heater is working correctly and that the key code lock is in operational order.

We would advise that the custodian develops a written checklist to ensure the readiness of the CPAD site (which will include AED, consumables and cabinet) as good and effective record keeping is essential for the safe management of the CPAD site and ensures it is always ‘rescue ready’.

In the event of the AED being deployed the custodian will be responsible for ensuring that the AED is collected and returned to operational status as soon as possible which will include the re-stocking of any equipment that has been used.

**Q: How is the CPAD site deployed?**

**A:** When the ambulance service receives a 999 call which relates to an unconscious casualty who may be in cardiac arrest they will inform the caller of their nearest CPAD site (as long as they fall within the 1 mile radius) and will give the exact location of the CPAD site.

The AED will be collected by the caller and taken to the incident.

Once the ambulance crew arrives they will then collect the AED and take with them to their ambulance station for safe keeping.

The custodian will be notified where the AED is and it will be their responsibility to arrange collection and any restocking of used equipment.

**Q: What do I need to do now - and do I need to contact the Ambulance Service?**

**A:** We would advise you to contact the East of England Ambulance Service if you decide you would like to have a CPAD site in your area as we can offer advice as to whether there is a need for a CPAD site in your village, where the best possible location would be and also if there is a Community First Responder Scheme in your area that you could link your CPAD site to.

Once your CPAD site is installed we will need to be informed so that we can add the information to our CAD system in ambulance control enabling 999 callers to be made aware of the location of the AED. We would also like to work with your local ‘custodian’ in the event of the AED being deployed which will assist you in returning the AED.

If you require any further help or more information please contact our Community Collaboration team via the email address below:

**Email:** [defibs@eastamb.nhs.uk](mailto:defibs@eastamb.nhs.uk)

