

MEDIANA HEARTON AED A15



INSTALLING, LOCATING AND SIGNPOSTING AN AED

When an organisation or community is planning purchases an AED, there are several important considerations:

1. Anyone needing to use it to try to save a life must be able to find it quickly and take it to the collapsed person without any delay. This means that, wherever possible:

- it should be placed in a prominent location so that people can see it easily
- its location should be shown using the recommended sign (fig 1)
- direction signs should be used to guide people to its location, so that they are visible anywhere within the operational radius of the AED
- anyone living or working in its location should know what it is, what it is for and be able to direct people to it immediately
- it should not be locked away
- it should be available 365 days per year and 24 hours per day.

2. AEDs should be sited as close as possible to their most likely place of use, considering:

- the layout of the building or venue
- the number of people at potential risk in each place
- the time and distance involved in getting it to a collapsed person.

In general, an AED should be accessible within 200 metres or two minutes' brisk walk (four minutes there and back) from where it is needed. In a location where this is unlikely to be possible, placing more than one AED in different parts of the location should be considered. In some (e.g. rural) settings this may not be realistic; other ways of minimising delay in obtaining the AED should be considered.

3. Most AEDs in public places are kept in protective cabinets. There is understandable concern that an AED in a public place may be at risk of theft or vandalism. Unfortunately, any arrangements to try to protect it will almost certainly create delays in getting it to the person who is in immediate need of it. The Resuscitation Council UK's recommendation is that AED cabinets should not be locked. If the risk of theft or vandalism is considered substantial, this should be addressed with the help of professional expertise, such as the local police crime prevention service. Any protective measures must aim also to minimise delay in obtaining access to the AED when it is needed.

4. Organisations with AEDs should have a formal policy to ensure that they are maintained in working order, and to ensure that they are available for public access wherever and whenever possible. Ideally, this means that an AED is available for public access 24 hours per day and 365 days per year. For many organisations (e.g. schools, dental practices, gymnasias) this will mean siting an AED outside the entrance to the premises, but this will have to be balanced against the importance of siting the AED where it is most likely to be needed by the users of the facility.

5. When purchasing one or more AEDs, you should consult and inform the local ambulance service. They may be able to offer guidance on the choice of location for an AED. Importantly, they can ensure that they record its location on their database, ensuring that their call-handlers can direct people to it rapidly if a cardiac arrest occurs nearby.



Fig.1

Taken from The Resuscitation Council's "A Guide to Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's)"
For more information, including downloadable AED signage, visit <https://www.resus.org.uk/>