

Press Release

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For immediate release
Dentistry Show Stand K55**

Dental practices are required by the General Dental Council (GDC) to have a defibrillator (or Automatic External Defibrillator, AED) immediately accessible on the premises, which is fully maintained. The installation of an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) allows proper care to be administered in the event of sudden cardiac arrest (SCA):

At the end of 2015, AED's were added to the list of immediately available emergency medical equipment required by Dentists. Due to high footfall at surgeries and the nature of dental procedures, SCA was recognised as a real threat to patients. However many practice teams are not fully aware of SCA, its threats and what they must do to align themselves with this new ruling: all staff must be aware of where the AED is and how to use it in the case of an emergency.

The AED itself will provide simple step-by-step guidance to users through simple audio commands and although some AED's provide a visual prompt, these can be a distraction in an emergency. The message is that AED's can be used by anyone; and they are sophisticated and entirely safe, performing a full ECG and only administering a shock if absolutely necessary, with no prompting from the user.

There is a public expectation that as medical professionals, Dentists and other dental care professionals are competent in treating SCA. There should be a plan for what to do in the case of SCA and training should have been received for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR.)

There are also specific rules relating to Dentists and the Resuscitation Council UK provides, for example: "In the Dental Surgery, do not move the patient from the dental chair in order to start CPR; quickly recline the dental chair into a horizontal position and place a stool under the head of the chair to increase its stability during CPR."

A Risk Assessment for SCA in a Dental Surgery will show that the risk of a patient having SCA, with its consequences, is likely to be, "High": meaning that action must be taken to provide access to an AED as soon as possible and no later than within six months. Simply on a Health & Safety basis therefore Dental Surgeries should have immediate access to an AED.

An all-inclusive package has been created specifically for Dentists: Defib Machines offers a low cost solution to the requirements. This package includes training for staff and refresher courses; installation; approved signage; regular health checks; full service and maintenance; certification; and replacement devices.

This specialist package provides a simple and easy way to fulfil the requirements and reduce the period of time spent compiling the various required elements of training, AED installation, signage and maintenance.

The package costs £1-a-day.

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Notes for Editors:

1. SCA is the UK's biggest killer, with more than 140,000 deaths each year. SCA does not imply heart disease; it is not a heart attack; and affects the very young as well as the elderly, the very fit and the not so healthy.
2. Unlike a heart attack (a blockage in the bloodstream) SCA is an electrical problem, which can only be corrected by an AED shock – CPR alone is not sufficient.
3. Resuscitation Council UK is the authoritative body set up to increase SCA survival rates: www.resus.org.uk Its Guidelines were revised in October 2015 in line with those of the European Resuscitation Council.
4. For more details: Jonathan Gilbert, Director on 07764254015 or visit **Dentistry Show Stand K55**.