AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR PROGRAM SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION:
An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is a medical device that delivers a shock to the heart during a cardiac emergency. AEDs are simple to use and can be found throughout the university. The following document provides an overview of the Harvard University AED program.

Why are AEDs Important?
The leading cause of death in the United States is heart disease, which more often than not leads to sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). Quick recognition of the emergency, good effective CPR and early defibrillation greatly increase a person’s chance of surviving SCA. Some studies have shown that you can increase a person chance of survival by 75% with early use of an AED.

Scope and Application:
AEDs are only required, by Massachusetts General Law, to be in dedicated “health clubs” and athletic facilities. Further information on these requirements for “health clubs” is detailed in M.G.L Chapter 93, Section 78A. Involvement in this program is strictly voluntary for most other locations at Harvard. If you’re interested in obtaining an AED for your school/department please contact Environmental Health and Safety at 617 495 – 2060.

REGULATORY BACKGROUND:
Harvard University’s program is based on the American Heart Association’s (AHA) Public Access to Defibrillation (PAD) guidelines. These guidelines call for medical oversight by a licensed physician, development of inspection and maintenance protocols, notification of AED locations to local Emergency Medical Service (EMS) offices, and providing training for AED users.

Program Elements:
✔ Medical Oversight: The AED Medical Director, located in University Health Services (UHS), provides the medical oversight for the AED program. The responsibilities of the Medical Director include: reviewing the purchase of all AEDs, submitting necessary records and information to local EMS offices, and conducting post incident reviews.

✔ Inspections: AEDs are required to be inspected on a monthly basis to ensure sufficient battery power, non-expired electrode pads, and the AED software is operating properly. A record of the inspection must also be maintained. Depending on your location and specific access controls EH&S can conduct and track your monthly inspections.
Training: At least one full time employee in your building or work area needs to maintain a current CPR/AED training certification to be compliant with PAD guidelines. The two most common training organizations are the American Red Cross and the American Heart Association. Both training organizations meet the definition of qualified training. Please contact EH&S at (617) 495 – 2060 for assistance with scheduling training.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY - AED PROGRAM SERVICES:

Program Implementation: EH&S assists schools and departments with determining the number of AEDs needed, location to store the AED, coordinating the purchase of the AED and answering any technical questions the client may have.

Training: EH&S will provide initial training upon the purchase of an AED. Refresher training will then be conducted by a third party. EH&S can provide assistance in coordinating refresher training through the third party.

Program Maintenance: EH&S will complete AED software updates on an as needed basis and for most clients, conduct the monthly AED inspections. Inclusion in the EH&S monthly inspection program will be determined during the initial implementation meetings with the school or department.