As we all know, medical emergencies within dental practices are rare; the most common problems being fainting, hypoglycaemia, choking, seizures, asthma and anaphylaxis, even rarer are cardiac problems such as angina, heart attacks and cardiac arrest.

However, despite the rarity of these problems, medical emergencies can happen at any time in a dental practice, so we all need to be prepared to deal with them should they occur and the GDC is very clear in its expectations.

• All members of staff need to know their role in the event of a medical emergency
• At least two people are available to deal with medical emergencies when treatment is planned to take place
• Members of staff need to be trained in dealing with such an action

There is also an expectation from our customers and members of the public that dental practitioners and dental care professionals are competent in dealing with medical emergencies.

Back in July 2006, the UK Resuscitation Council released recommendations regarding standards for managing resuscitation and medical emergencies for dental practitioners and dental care professionals in general dental practice.

The recommendations include the following regarding AED availability and training:
• All clinical areas should have immediate access to an AED
• Dental practitioners and dental care professionals should all undergo training in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), basic airway management and use of an AED.

Hew Mathewson, now past President of the GDC “Welcomes these guidelines and congratulates the authors on their considerable work that has led to the publication” (March 2006).

Dealing with medical emergencies is just one of the recommended core subjects per CPD cycle with a suggested minimum number of 10 hours (defibshop.co.uk offer CPD accredited training in the use of an AED including CPR which takes four hours every 12 months and is worth four verifiable CPD points)

Sudden Cardiac Arrest can happen to anyone at anytime and the only effective treatment is an electric shock delivered by an AED.

The time from arrest to delivery of the first shock is the single most important determinant in survival. For every minute that goes by the patient’s chance of survival reduces between seven – 10 per cent.

“When the shock is delivered within five minutes of the sudden cardiac arrest, 50 percent of individuals survive,” said Deborah DiSanzo, vice president and general manager of cardiac resuscitation at Philips Medical Systems, manufacturer of the popular HS1 & FRx defibrillators.

So the question that needs addressing is “Why wouldn’t your practice purchase an AED?”

They are very simple to use, with only one or two buttons to operate.

Once activated the AED will provide clear voice prompts, reminding the user to call for the emergency services and where the electrode pads should be placed.

As soon as the pads are attached to the patient the AED will monitor the patient’s heart rhythm and decide whether to deliver a shock or not.

Some machines (semi automatic) will instruct the user to push a button whilst others will deliver the shock automatically (fully automatic).

Most defibrillators also provide clear verbal instructions on how to perform CPR during that part of the rescue protocol, the Lifeline View from Defibtech even has a small LCD screen with a colour video to prompt the rescuer. How amazing is that!

Not having an AED available to use on a collapsed patient may result in a member of the dental team being challenged if it can be shown that it could have favourably influenced the outcome, especially if the action of a dental care professional differs from the recommendation / guidelines from...
such an authoritative body as the Resuscitation Council.de-
fiishop.co.uk offer more than 10 different defibrillators for
less £1,000, and if you choose to lease that could be as lit-
tle as £148 a day so again the question that needs addressing
is “Why wouldn’t your practice purchase an AED?”

We can’t think of a rea-
sion..............can you?

Lots of defibrillators to
choose from and here are six of
the most popular.

Cardiac Science Powerheart
G3 Plus
The Powerheart AED G3 Plus
is the newest defibrillator
offered by Cardiac Sci-
ence and is available in
semi automatic
or fully automatic
versions. “Rescue
Coach” intuitive
prompts are designed
to guide the rescuer
through the rescue
process and provide in-
structions. Prices start from
£1,000 + vat.

Defibtech Lifeline (Standard
five year battery option)
Defibtech Life-
line AED is a
robust one
piece unit
built for
real life
situ-
tions. Built to US military
standards for ruggedness and
exceeds standards for splash
and dust resistance.

The Lifeline AED
is lightweight at only
two kg, pads are pre-
connected (adult or paedi-
atic) and is also
available in
semi au-
tomatic or
fully au-
tomatic
versions.
Prices
start
from
£116.00
+ vat.

Medtronic Lifepak CR Plus
Medtronic Lifepak CR Plus
is available in either semi
automatic or fully automatic
versions.

It is designed to be used by
the minimally trained res-
cuer with the semi au-
tomatic version only
requiring three steps
for a potentially life
saving defibrilla-
tion shock whilst
the fully auto-
matic version
only requires
the rescuer
to apply the
pads. Prices start from
£1,295 + vat.

Heartsine Sa-
maritan PAD
The only UK
manufactured
defibrillator on
the market this fan-
tastic defibrillator
only uses three simple
icons and verbal in-
structions, the Samarit-
ian PAD will clearly guide
the rescuer through each step. The
Samaritan PAD is activated by
pressing the green on button.
The pads and battery pack are
packaged together (one ex-
piry date to track) and the unit
prompts the rescuer visually
and verbally. Prices start from
£799 + vat.

Philips / Laerdal Heartstart
First Aid HS1
A compact semi automatic unit
aimed at individuals trained
in basic life support but who
would be expected to use
the equipment infrequently.

Clear calm voice instruc-
tions guide the rescuer through
each step of defibrillation in-
cluding CPR coaching.

CPD Accredited AED / CPR
training
defibshop.co.uk offer CPD ac-
credited training in the safe use
of the defibrillator you choose
to purchase and CPR.

Our experienced trainers
come to your practice to train
your staff in as little as two
hours if you choose our e-learn-
ing option for the theory ele-
ment of the course. If you prefer
pure instructor led training the
course lasts up to four hours
and cost the same only £300 + vat.

Zoll AED Plus Lay Respons-
er
The Zoll AED Plus is the only
AED on the market which
offers a full rescue capability
providing the rescuer with
feedback to assist in CPR and
is aimed at both basic life sup-
port users and healthcare pro-
essionals. The AED Plus is
easily distinguishable by its
lime green colour and use of
a single electrode rather than
two. Zoll were recently award-
ed the national defibrillator
contract from the British Heart
Foundation. Prices start from
£1,000 + vat.

Defibshop.co.uk offer CPD ac-
creditation to register for
our newsletter and information
on defibrillator special offers
and latest news articles.

Email Paula Leech or Mar-
garet Green for a full copy
of the Resuscitation Council
Guidelines and to register for
our newsletter and information
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call 0845 071 0830.

About the author
David Howarth is the Managing Di-
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number one online distributor of de-
fibrillators, consumables and CPD
verifiable training. Established in 2005
defibshop offers impartial advice on
which defibrillator best meets your
company's needs and budget, and re-
mains the only distributor of every
manufacturer's defibrillators in
the UK. The defibshop website is the
most comprehensive resource for defib-
illators on the web and it includes, 360
degree images, full technical specifica-
tions, comparison tables, videos, cost
of ownership over five years graphs
and latest news articles.

Are you equipped for an emergency?
Saving minutes, saves lives

Dental Defibrillator Package – Quote reference RF269 for special offer
Includes free carry case, rescue ready kit, 2 sets of adult pads & 1 set of paediatric pads

For further information, contact:
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