



Buxton Fire-Rescue

Administrative Policy

Subject: Emergency Medical Services (14)

Section/Number: Double Sequential Defibrillation (2)

Date Approved: January 27, 2018

Nath & Sle



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Purpose:

To define the scope of service provided by Buxton Fire-Rescue advanced life support providers and to ensure proper functioning of the cardiac monitor defibrillator.

Policy:

Buxton Fire-Rescue Paramedics will not provide Double Sequential Defibrillation.

Adherence to this Policy is required by all employees. If it is found that employees are not following the policy, disciplinary action will follow according to the [Towns Personnel Policy](#).

Background:

The 2018 Maine EMS protocol allows for the use of the Double Sequential Defibrillation procedure as a last resort option in refractory VF/VT after five (5) unsuccessful shocks (with vector change) and the administration of epinephrine and amiodarone.¹ This is considered an “off-label” use of the defibrillator⁶ and is not an FDA approved use of the defibrillator. The Lifepak 15 product warranty does not cover damage to the device which results from performing an off-label use.

There is currently one study that found 12 patients that had DSD performed, 9 converted, 3 survived to hospital discharge with one neurologically intact.⁵ Other studies found no benefit of DSD over standard defibrillation.²⁻⁴

References:

1. http://www.maine.gov/ems/documents/2017_WhitePaper_RefractoryVFVTDS.pdf
2. <https://www.emsl.com/ems-products/cpr-resuscitation/articles/245294048-Prove-It-Dual-defibrillation-of-refractory-ventricular-fibrillation/>
3. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26848018>
4. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27344928>
5. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0300957216303987>
6. https://www.physio-control.com/uploadedFiles/Physio85/Contents/Trade_Shows/2016%20Recent%20Resuscitation%20Research-%20ENA.pdf