



North Country EMS Program Agency

“Serving Jefferson, Lewis & St. Lawrence Counties”

Ann M. Smith, EMT-CC, Director

Mysti L. Mattice, Secretary

To: North Country Regional EMS Agencies

From: Ann M. Smith, NCEMSPA Director

Date: January 11, 2011

Re: AED use in moving vehicles

The Regional Emergency Medical Services Advisory Quality Improvement/Quality Assurance Committee has noted that recently there have been many incidences where the cardiac monitors have been left in AED mode by Critical Care and Paramedic providers during transport of a cardiac arrest patient to the hospital.

All Critical Care and Paramedic providers should change the monitor to manual mode during transport as the performance of the AED has been demonstrated to be degraded from vibrations, which can be routinely encountered during ambulance transport, including inadequate shock commands to non-shockable rhythms and no shock commands to VF.*

The NYS DOH BLS Curriculum states the following under use of AED; “If in a moving ambulance, tell driver to stop the vehicle in a safe location” prior to analyzing the patient’s rhythm.

*Performance of an automated external defibrillator in a moving ambulance vehicle; 2010
Elsevier/resuscitation 81(2010) 457-462