**Choosing an AED**

Project ADAM endorses the purchase of FDA-approved units. Be sure to purchase from a company that has been in the AED market for more than two years and that manufactures other medical devices – this will provide you with security in knowing you are making a purchase from a reputable company. Each unit has unique features, though they all serve the same purpose: delivering a shock to restore the normal rhythm of the heart. You may ask: “Why, then, are there differences?” The answer is simple: as with any purchase, the consumer has choices due to the high demand of such units.

**Criteria:**

1. What AED unit does your local EMS purchase?

2. What does your medical director recommend?

3. How many units do you need to purchase?

4. Can the company provide you with a comprehensive package?

5. Will you have a local contact from the AED Company?

6. Does your school prefer features some models don’t have?

7. Does your school wish to purchase a portable unit as well as a wall-mounted unit(s)?

8. Does the unit have pediatric defibrillation capabilities? (This is asked if the AED will be used on children younger than 8 years or less than 55 pounds).

9. Does the AED vendor provide ongoing maintenance checks, and provide renewal supplies free of charge or for a discounted price?

10. What is the longevity of the battery or the pads, and how much do the replacements cost?

11. What is the product warranty?

**Steps for choosing an AED:**

1. Form a committee; including a representative of your local EMS (this step is recommended but not always necessary).

2. Gather information on AED companies from your local Project ADAM affiliate.

3. Arrange to meet with the vendor(s) of your choice.

4. Discuss criteria with committee. Vote on unit and vendor of choice.

5. Contact vendor with questions or negotiable criteria.

6. Ensure funding is in place from your budget.

7. Arrange a phone call or meeting with chosen vendor to negotiate purchase and delivery.

8. Speak with other schools districts. Sometimes a group purchase can lower your cost.

**AED Manufacturers:**

Utilize the list below to learn about the major manufacturers of public access AED units.

Contact a Project ADAM affiliate nearest you for guidance in choosing and purchasing a unit to ensure credibility, the best pricing available and support in getting connected to a local vendor.

[**HeartSine**](http://heartsine.com/product/p/us/)

[**Physio Control**](http://www.physiocontrol.com/ProductsPrehospital.aspx)

[**Cardiac Science**](http://www.cardiacscience.com/)

[**Philips**](http://www.usa.philips.com/healthcare/solutions/emergency-care-resuscitation/automated-external-defibrillators)

[**Zoll**](http://www.zoll.com/medical-products/automated-external-defibrillators/)

[**Defibtech**](http://www.defibtech.com/us-products-intro)