



2015 Legislative Session

Cardiac Arrest Response Act – Defibrillation and the Good Samaritan

Cardiac issues are “an issue” in New Mexico. Survey results from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that Emergency Medical System call volumes for chest pain totaled 22,575 and for cardiac arrest 3,529 New Mexicans in 2008 (source: CDC Survey of EMS Practices for Heart Disease and Stroke, 2008) -- and this is with just a 50% response rate of those surveyed.

The Cardiac Arrest Response Act was established in 1999 (HB375) and later amended in 2007 (HB639). The Act provides guidance and protection for those who use an automated external defibrillator, including “Good Samaritans.” Currently, limited immunity for persons who render emergency care or treatment by the use of an AED includes the rescuer, purchaser, property owner, physician, and trainer.

The proposed amendment would clarify the liability language and expand protection to include people who provide or make an AED available to the public, the manager or operator of the property/facility, and the person that authorizes, directs or supervises the installation or placement of an AED. This expansion of liability protection will act to allay concerns about litigation after rendering emergency care or treatment by AED and encourage better access and availability of this life saving tool.

New Mexico Medical Society supports the amendment to the Cardiac Arrest Response Act.

For more information please contact:

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