



Seirbhís Náisiúnta Otharcharranna  
Teach Dara, Ascaill an Crann Teile  
Páirc na Mílaoise  
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9th July 2019

Ms Maureen O'Sullivan TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ27971/19: "To ask the Minister for Health if there are active guidelines on the use of defibrillators on infants; and if so, if they are being applied."**

Dear Deputy O'Sullivan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) is an independent statutory agency with responsibility for standards, education and training in the field of pre-hospital emergency care. PHECC also maintain a statutory register of emergency medical practitioners in Ireland.

The National Ambulance Service operates in line with PHECC's 2017 Clinical Practice Guidelines when providing clinical care to patients.

The following Clinical Practice Guidelines and NAS Clinical Directives are active in the use of paediatric defibrillation;

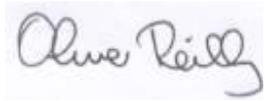
1. **Section 7 – Paediatric Emergencies** 4/5/6,7.20 version 3, 03/2016 – Basic Life Support- Paediatric ( $\leq$  15 Years)
2. **Clinical Practice Guidelines – 2017 Edition, page 10**, Age definitions
3. **National Ambulance Service, Clinical Directive 01/2016** – Paediatric defibrillation using the Lifepak 15 monitor/ defibrillator

I have attached a copy of the Clinical Practice Guidelines outlined above for your convenience.

I trust this information is of assistance to you and should you require additional information please contact me.



Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Oliver Reilly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a light blue rectangular highlight behind it.

Oliver Reilly  
Asst Chief Ambulance Officer  
Corporate Affairs & Communications



Feidhmeannaí na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive



**CLINICAL DIRECTIVE 01/2016**

**FROM: Medical Director**

**TO: Paramedics, Advanced Paramedics, Supervisors, Managers.**

**SUBJECT: Paediatric defibrillation using the LIFEPAK® 15 monitor/defibrillator**

In the setting of paediatric ventricular fibrillation, using the LIFEPAK® 15 monitor/defibrillator Paramedics & Advanced Paramedics should defibrillate in manual mode at 4J/kg up to and including the age of 15 years old, using the table below to assist in energy level selection.

**RATIONALE:**

- Due to the transition by NAS to a single national monitor/defibrillator system (LIFEPAK® 15) and the addition of manual defibrillation at Paramedic level, the NAS Medical Directorate wishes to clarify energy selection for paediatric patients using the LIFEPAK®
- LP15 defibrillation of adults (> 15 years) by NAS uses 360J energy levels for all shocks. LP15 defibrillation of paediatrics (< 16 years) by NAS uses age / weight based energy levels as per table below.
- Current scope of practice allows *Advanced Paramedics* and Paramedics to use defibrillators in manual mode during both adult and paediatric resuscitations and adjust the paediatric energy dose in accordance with PHECC CPGs.
- All staff are reminded that as per manufacturers recommendations, (LIFEPAK®) paediatric pads should not be used on patients who exceed 15kg, anterior posterior pad placement is an acceptable alternative for pad placement on paediatric patients where the chest wall is not large enough to accommodate adult pads.

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### Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs) and the practitioner

CPGs are guidelines for best practice and are not intended as a substitute for good clinical judgment. Unusual patient presentations make it impossible to develop a CPG to match every possible clinical situation. The practitioner decides if a CPG should be applied based on patient assessment and the clinical impression. The practitioner must work in the best interest of the patient within the scope of practice for his/her clinical level on the PHECC Register. Consultation with fellow practitioners and/or medical practitioners in challenging clinical situations is strongly advised.

#### The CPGs herein may be implemented provided:

1. The practitioner is in good standing on the PHECC practitioner's Register – **Credentialed**.
2. The practitioner is acting on behalf of a licensed CPG provider (paid or voluntary) – **Licensed**.
3. The practitioner is privileged by the licensed CPG provider on whose behalf he/she is acting to implement the specific CPG – **Privileged**.
4. The practitioner has received training on, and is competent in, the skills and medications specified in the CPG being utilised.

The medication dose specified on the relevant CPG shall be the definitive dose in relation to practitioner administration of medications. The principle of titrating the dose to the desired effect shall be applied. The onus rests on the practitioner to ensure that he/she is using the latest versions of CPGs, which are available on the PHECC website [www.phecc.ie](http://www.phecc.ie)

#### Definitions

Adult	A patient of 16 years or greater, unless specified on the CPG
Child	A patient between 1 and less than or equal to (≤) 15 years old, unless specified on the CPG
Infant	A patient between 4 weeks and less than 1 year old, unless specified on the CPG
Neonate	A patient less than 4 weeks old, unless specified on the CPG
Paediatric patient	Any child, infant or neonate

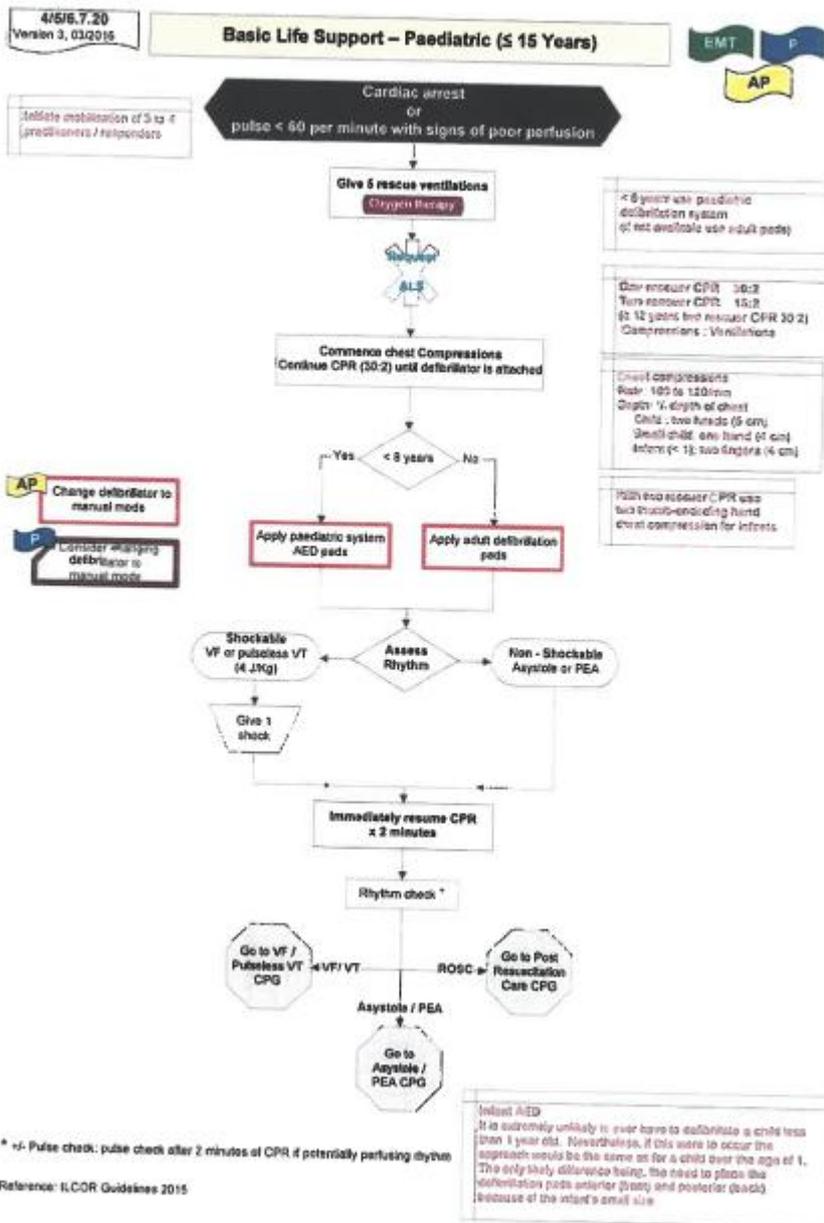
### CPGs and the pre-hospital emergency care team

The aim of pre-hospital emergency care is to provide a comprehensive and coordinated approach to patient care management, thus providing each patient with the most appropriate care in the most efficient time frame.

In Ireland today, the provision of emergency care comes from a range of disciplines and includes responders (Cardiac First Responders, First Aid Responders and Emergency First Responders) and practitioners (Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics, Advanced Paramedics, Nurses and Doctors) from the statutory, private, auxiliary and voluntary services.

CPGs set a consistent standard of clinical practice within the field of pre-hospital emergency care. By reinforcing the role of the practitioner, in the continuum of patient care, the chain of survival and the golden hour are supported in medical and traumatic emergencies respectively.

SECTION 7 - Paediatric Emergencies



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