



RESUSCITATION COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

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2025 ECC Guidelines: Effect on AEDs

The 2025 ECC guidelines for CPR and Emergency Cardiovascular Care were released internationally on 22 October 2025. All major Training Providers, including the Resuscitation Council of Southern Africa (RCSA) have adopted these guidelines and incorporated them into training programmes and materials.

In conjunction with high-quality CPR, early defibrillation remains a cornerstone of resuscitation during sudden cardiac arrest. The RCSA encourages the implementation of Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) programmes with the availability of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) being made as widely available as possible.

The 2025 ECC guidelines have no updated protocols for the use of the AED with the following still being considered current:

- AEDs should be accessible, and their presence labeled and advertised using appropriate signage.
- When an AED advises that a shock should be delivered, the rescuer should clear the patient and press the shock button to deliver a single shock and then immediately resume CPR until the next automated analysis cycle.
- The placement of pads should follow the pictures on the AED pads (recommended pad placement has not changed in the 2025 guidelines).
- AEDs should be maintained in a working condition and follow the manufacturer's recommended service schedule / guidelines.

In summary: There have been no major changes that affect AED use in the 2025 ECC guidelines.

Issued on behalf of the Resuscitation Council of Southern Africa.