



# General Order

## Department of Fire & EMS

G.O. 8-4-2024

**Subject:** Defibrillation Pad Placement and Joule Settings Changes

**Date:** August 14, 2024

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As part of our continuous effort to enhance patient care and streamline our resuscitation processes, the following updates have been made to the Ventricular Fibrillation (VF) and Ventricular Tachycardia (VT) Cardiac Arrest Protocol. These changes are effective immediately and have been approved by Dr. Kemp and MIEMSS.

**Primary Pad Placement:**

For adult patients, the primary defibrillation pads will now be placed in the Anterior/Posterior position. This adjustment is intended to minimize patient movement during resuscitation, reducing unnecessary interruptions in high-performance CPR. By adopting this approach, we aim to enhance the quality of chest compressions and overall resuscitation efforts.

**Secondary Pad Placement for Vector Change (VC)/Dual Sequential Defibrillation (DSD):**  
A second set of defibrillation pads will be utilized for each cardiac arrest patient. These pads will be placed in the standard pad placement position to facilitate VC/DSD when indicated.

**Defibrillation Energy Setting:**

All defibrillations will now be performed at the 360-joule setting, regardless of whether they are initial or subsequent shocks.

Please ensure that you are familiar with these changes and incorporate them into your practice immediately.

These updates are designed to improve patient outcomes by optimizing the effectiveness of defibrillation and minimizing disruptions during critical resuscitation efforts.

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for your continued dedication to providing the highest quality care to our patients.

Primary Pad Placement 2B/2A  
Secondary Pad Placement 1A/1B

