

## Defibrillation Pads Now Available for Pediatric Patients

The Food and Drug Administration has given several companies approval to market pediatric defibrillation pads for AEDs, providing police officers with a better means to save children's lives.

The new pads, which can be attached to Automatic External Defibrillators used for adults, are de-



signed for use on children under eight years old who have suffered sudden cardiac arrest. They are

made to deliver an appropriate level of energy for smaller body sizes.

Companies now offering pediatric AED pads include Agilent Heartstream, Defibtech, and Zoll AED.

These defibrillators actually talk to the user, giving audible step-by-step instructions on how to properly use the equipment to restore a child's regular heart rhythm. This feature allows non-medical personnel, such as teachers and day-care workers, to effectively respond to an emergency until first responders arrive.

Many states have passed legislation that facilitates or mandates the placement of automatic external defibrillators in schools. Causes of childhood cardiac arrest include ventricular fibrillation, commotio cordis, Long QT Syndrome, and Wolff-Parkinson-White Syndrome.

Defibrillators and optional pediatric pads are sold to fire and police departments, schools, and community centers.