



THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE BUYING YOUR AED

Common features to all AEDs

AED's come with a variety of features, some common to all, other features are unique to a specific model or manufacturer. Deciding which features meet your needs will ensure you buy the AED that's right for your company.

Ease of Use

All AED's are designed to be easy to use, even by untrained personnel. This is achieved through voice and visual prompts which lead the user through the rescue process. All the AED's we sell are very simple to use.

Reliability

We hope that you will never need to use your AED! Which means it will possibly be in a cabinet or first aid room for a long period of time before it may need to be used. It's important then, that you can have the confidence this device will work when it's needed. To achieve that, the AED will perform regular self-checks of circuitry and battery levels (daily, weekly, monthly dependent on the model) If a problem was to arise the AED would inform you via an audible alarm and / or flashing indicator.

There is no supporting evidence to suggest any one AED saves more lives than another.

Warranty

All the AED's we sell come with either a 5 or 7 year manufacturer's warranty giving you total peace of mind with your investment.

Biphasic Waveform

All the AED's we sell deliver a biphasic shock which has been demonstrated to be more effective than a monophasic shock.

Unique AED features

AED's are designed to look non-clinical, non-threatening and visually appealing to the user. AED's are compact enough to be placed alongside first aid kits or in rescue bags and so are lightweight and portable, some have inbuilt carry handles whilst others require snug fitting carry bags.

Shock Levels: Fixed Energy V Escalating Energy

As mentioned previously all the AED's we sell deliver a biphasic shock, however, AED's deliver this life saving shock differently by using different energy levels.

Some have fixed energy levels meaning the first and subsequent shocks will be delivered at the same energy level, typically 150 joules of energy.

Others deliver escalating energy levels, the first shock maybe delivered at 150 joules and any subsequent shocks will be delivered at higher energy levels typically 200 joules for the second shock and 300 joules for the third and remaining shocks.

All manufacturers claim their method of delivery is the most effective but there is no definitive research currently available to suggest one is better than the other.

Battery Life

Battery life is a very important consideration when buying an AED, whichever AED you choose to buy; you can expect to replace the battery at least once during its life, even if the AED is never used. This could have a significant impact on the total cost of AED ownership over a 5 – 7 year period.

Rechargeable batteries

Rechargeable batteries are available to a few, certainly not all of the AED's. These AED's are more professional units with additional features such as ECG screens and manual override capability.

These units would be used on a regular basis by healthcare professionals and so would require rechargeable batteries to ensure full battery levels and to help reduce the cost of ownership.

Electrode Self-Test

All AED's perform self-tests on internal circuitry and battery levels and will alert the user of any problems. Only some units check that the electrode pads are connected to the AED and currently only Cardiac Science AED's check the integrity of the gel on those pads so you can be 100% sure that every element of their AED will work every time.

Voice Prompts

All AED's use a series of voice prompts to guide the user through the rescue process. Where AED's differ is in what and how much detail they provide to guide the user. Some units are very specific in their vocal coaching, especially when it comes to the CPR element of the rescue, this is ideal for an untrained / infrequent user.

Other units will go quiet during this process only offering information such as elapsed time to next analysis. Many healthcare professionals prefer this approach as they practice their skills often and may not need or desire additional voice prompts.

Some units even allow you to choose either option by simply pressing a button on the unit and so will suit all users' preferences / needs.

Visual Prompts

Current guidance from the UK Resuscitation Council states that AED users should follow the voice and visual prompts of the AED they are using.

Similar to voice prompts the manufacturers have taken different routes to visually display guidance to the rescuer.

Some units opt for a simple LCD text solution, displaying elapsed time, number of shocks and a CPR countdown. Others have gone to the other end of the spectrum and their AED's display pictorially the full rescue sequence which is to be followed.

As with voice prompts you need to decide who will be using the unit and how much prompting / guidance those users may need from the AED.

ECG Display

ECG displays are useful for medical professionals trained to interpret the results. ECG displays are available on our more expensive professional level AED's.

They are an unnecessary feature and expense for lay responders and may even be a distraction during a rescue.

Accessories

AED's come with various extras, when choosing your AED expect to pay for the unit itself, this will include the battery and at least one set of adult electrode pads.

In addition to this, some units come supplied with an additional set of adult electrode pads, maybe a carry case or even an extra battery.

When comparing AEDs you need to look at everything each unit comes with to assess its real value.

For Further Information -

Please visit our website at www.ppd-safetytraining.co.uk or call us on 01453 758475 for free impartial advice or to order your AED.

