



CDSS

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**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

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PIN 18-10-ASC

TO: ALL RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY FOR THE ELDERLY LICENSEES

FROM: *Original signed by Pamela Dickfoss*  
PAMELA DICKFOSS  
Deputy Director  
Community Care Licensing Division

SUBJECT: **AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS USED IN RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES FOR THE ELDERLY**

**Provider Information Notice (PIN) Summary**

PIN 18-10-ASC provides information regarding the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFEs).

An AED is a lightweight, portable device used to administer an electric shock through the chest wall to the heart. Built-in computers assess a patient's heart rhythm, determine whether electric shock, also known as defibrillation in this circumstance, is needed, then administer the shock. Audible and/or visual prompts guide the user through the process. [[California Code of Regulations \(CCR\), Title 22, Section 87101\(a\)\(8\)](#)]

Existing [CCR, Title 22, Section 87607](#) "Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)" permits, but does not require, licensees to maintain and operate an AED at an RCFE. If licensees maintain and operate an AED, they must follow the requirements of [CCR, Title 22, Section 87607](#).

Licensees are also required to follow all other laws and regulations, many of which are out of the Department's purview, but which may apply. It is the responsibility of licensees to determine if their facility has characteristics that would subject it to additional requirements. The Community Care Licensing Division advises licensees to be familiar with recent law changes that pertain to AEDs which may impact their facility.

### **Physician's Prescription**

The Department has recently fielded questions about whether licensees that maintain and operate an AED at their facility should adhere to the existing requirement that they maintain a copy of the required physician's prescription as specified in [CCR, Title 22, Section 87607\(a\)\(3\)\(A\)](#) in light of a change in [Health and Safety Code section 1797.196\(b\)\(3\)](#), stating that a medical director of an RCFE or other physician is not required to be involved in the acquisition or placement of an AED in an RCFE.

According to the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which oversees the approval of AEDs as a medical device to be sold to the public, most AEDs require a prescription to purchase, making them "prescription devices." In addition, the California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA), the state Department that oversees [Health and Safety Code Section 1797.196](#), indicates a physician's prescription is now often included with an AED upon purchase from a manufacturer or retailer. If a physician prescription is not included with the AED upon purchase, it is still necessary to obtain a physician's prescription for an AED used in an RCFE. Both methods of obtaining a physician's prescription address the requirement specified in [CCR, Title 22, Section 87607\(a\)\(3\)\(A\)](#).

Other than the prescription requirement above, a medical director of an RCFE or other physician is not required to be involved in the acquisition or placement of an AED in an RCFE. [[HSC section 1797.196\(b\)\(3\)](#)]

If you have any questions, please contact your [Adult and Senior Care Regional Office](#).