



## Memo

**To:** EMT Basic Providers

**From:** PAEMS Office

**CC:** Jack Fleeharty, Division Chief, Division of EMS and Highway Safety, IDPH  
Kathie Wagle, RN, BSN, Region 2 EMS Coordinator, IDPH  
James Hubler, M.D., Medical Director, Proctor EMS System  
James Sowards, M.D., Emergency Medical Director, Methodist Medical Center  
Leon Yeh, M.D., Emergency Medical Director, Pekin Hospital

**Date:** December 9, 2011

**Re:** EMT-Basic Providers and Cardiac Monitoring

It has come to our attention that there is some confusion regarding EMT-B level scope of practice and the use of cardiac monitoring. We have recently discussed cardiac monitoring with IDPH Division Chief, Jack Fleeharty, and IDPH Region 2 EMS Coordinator, Kathie Wagle, both of which have shared similar concerns regarding cardiac monitoring by EMT-B providers.

Cardiac monitoring is not within the scope of practice for EMT-Basic level providers. The only time the AED monitors should be applied to a patient by an EMT-B, is in a full arrest or unresponsive situation. IDPH has confirmed this interpretation of the scope of practice for EMT-Basics.

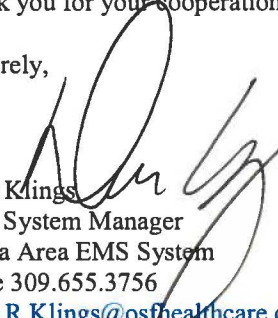
The use of AED manual setting is not for use by an EMT-B. PAEMS protocols read: "If the manual mode is activated, ILS/ALS personnel must then operate the defibrillator." All personnel working at a BLS agency must operate within the scope of practice of both their license and the licensure of the agency.

Finally, the EMT-B should neither utilize the cardiac monitor for vital sign measurement, nor document the rhythm on cardiac monitor or report rhythms during radio calls. If an EMT-I or EMT-P is working at an EMT-B agency, then such EMT-I or EMT-P may function at the level of the vehicle's licensure. Intercepts should be initiated for higher levels of care when indicated by patient condition.

The PAEMS office will be visiting EMT Basic agencies in the near future and clarifying any confusions or questions on IDPH or PAEMS policies and procedures regarding the use of AEDs.

Thank you for your cooperation and for your service to the community.

Sincerely,

  
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