



# parkrun AED (Automated External Defibrillator) guide

UK & Ireland

February 2025 | v. 1.6





# Table of contents

Introduction	page 3
What is an AED & why it is important?	page 4
Your AED & how to use it	page 5
Training	page 6
Fundraising for replacement of an AED, pads and batteries	page 7
Purchasing an AED	page 8
Replacement pads and batteries	page 9
Location & storage of an AED	page 10
AED & Risk Assessment	page 12
Considerations for junior parkrun	page 13
Common Q&As	page 14





# Introduction

As parkrun has grown and the number of people taking part in our events around the world each week has increased, we have recognised that the statistical likelihood that a critical medical incident will occur at one of our events increases similarly.

**We recognise our responsibility to make our parkruns as safe as possible for everyone taking part, and take this duty extremely seriously.**

parkrun have now made the commitment to deliver AEDs to every event globally, to ensure that wherever parkrun takes place around the world, the chance of survival for someone who experiences a Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is greatly improved.

**We are proud that already today, numerous lives have been saved by our commitment to ensure access to an AED at our events.**



# What is an AED and why is it important?

An automated external defibrillator (AED) is a portable device that checks the heart rhythm and can send an electric shock to the heart to try to restore its normal rhythm.

AEDs are used to treat sudden cardiac arrest, which is a leading cause of death. SCA is a condition in which the heart suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating. When this happens, blood stops flowing to the brain and other vital organs. SCA usually causes death if it is not treated within minutes. In fact, each minute of SCA leads to an approximate 10% reduction in survival. It's usually too late to wait for an ambulance to arrive and for paramedics to administer the first shock.

Portable AEDs enable more people to respond to a medical emergency that requires defibrillation. Having an accessible Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to quickly deliver a life-saving shock often means the difference between life and death.

**Remember - AEDs save lives!**





# Your AED & how to use it

All new events are being provided with the Heartsine SAM 500P AED. When you receive your AED, it will come with a [detailed user guide](#), which you should read carefully.

Please note that the AED will operate in the native language of the country where your parkrun is located.

Your AED is designed to treat someone who may have experienced a Sudden Cardiac Arrest. This means that they are unresponsive to stimulus, not breathing normally and with no apparent circulation.

If a victim goes into Sudden Cardiac Arrest it is very important that CPR is administered as quickly as possible. CPR is a combination of techniques, including chest compressions, designed to pump the heart to get blood circulating and deliver oxygen to the brain until an AED can be deployed to stimulate the heart to start working again.

An AED will give instructions when to give CPR and the Heartsine SAM 500P model even tells you how good your chest compressions are.

We recommend that you watch these two videos which have been produced by Heartsine, the manufacturers of the device.

The first relates to unpacking and setting up the device when you receive it, including inserting the Pad-Pak (batteries and pads) and filling in the warranty card.

## **Unpacking and set-up**

The second video guides you through all aspects of using the Heartsine SAM 500P AED, including performing CPR (Cardiopulmonary resuscitation) on the patient.

## **How to use**

# Training

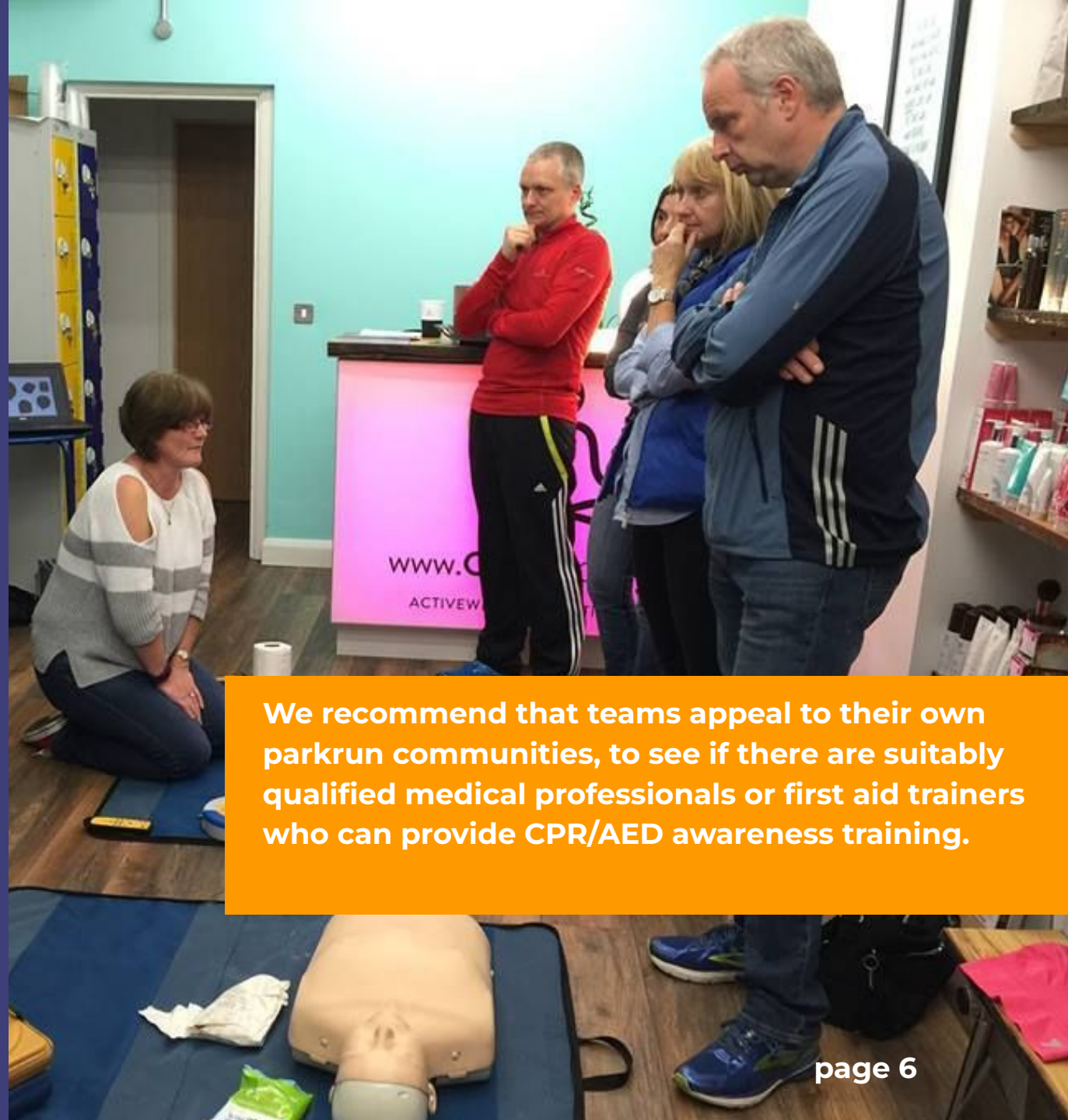
It is good practice for some members of your core teams to receive CPR/AED awareness training.

Nurses, First Aid Instructors, Community First Responders and Paramedics can provide this training. Please note that this does not need to be certified/accredited.

Alternatively you can see if there are training resources provided by local or national charities, such as heart charities or fire brigade services, which often provide free training, either online or in person.

In the UK & Ireland we have two training units for events to use as part of their AED/CPR training. If you would like to take advantage of this resource please contact [Event Support](#).

We also have two AEDs held centrally which can go out on loan as a short-term emergency replacement if need be, subject to availability. Please email [Event Support](#) to discuss should the need arise.



**We recommend that teams appeal to their own parkrun communities, to see if there are suitably qualified medical professionals or first aid trainers who can provide CPR/AED awareness training.**

# Fundraising for replacement AEDs, pads and batteries

From experience we have found that the quickest and most effective way to raise funds is via your parkun community. Most events have raised funds in only a matter of days and in some cases in a few hours by using the following methods:

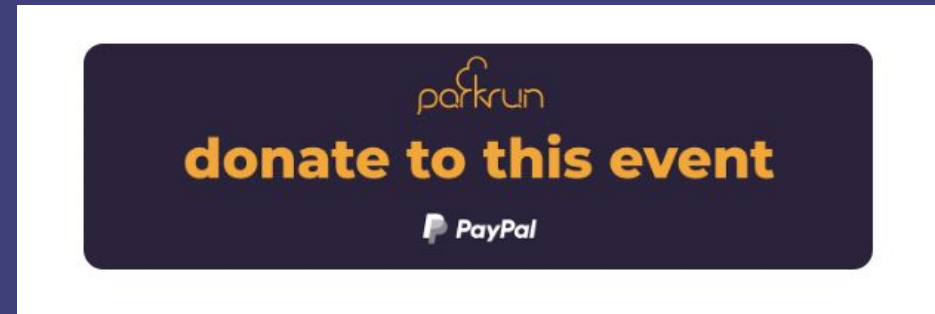
- making announcements during the pre-event brief and signposting parkrunners to the donations page
- handing out slips at the finish line with information explaining how to donate
- making an announcement on social media pages coupled with a link to the About Us page of the event website

**Please note that under no circumstances must cash be handled or cheques be made out to a team member, banked into their account and one cheque forwarded to HQ**

To find the **Donate to this event** tab:

- go to the event website (e.g. [Woodhouse Moor parkrun](#))
- click on the **about us** tab under the option **more**
- Scroll down to find the Donate to this event button

You can see the available balance on your event's wiki page by typing in your event's name [here](#).



# Purchasing a new AED

Once the event has sufficient funds an AED must be purchased through [Event Support](#) who will place an order directly with our supplier, Aero Healthcare.

Our preferred supplier sells three devices:

Heartsine SAM350P - Semi automatic - £715.95 or £858.95 parkrun kit\*

Heartsine SAM360P - Fully automatic - £715.95 or £858.95 parkrun kit\*

Heartsine SAM500P - as above but with CPR Feedback - £840.55 or £958.91 parkrun kit\*

*\* parkrun kit includes a first aid kit and backpack that the AED and first aid kit fits into.*

There is a £9.90 carriage charge on top of the price quoted above.

Please ensure that you have enough in your donations pot before placing an order. You can see the available balance on your event's wiki page.





## Replacement pads and batteries

For the Heartsine SAM 350P/360P/500P AED, the pads and batteries come together in what is known as a Pad-Pak. The Pad-Paks generally have an expiry date of 3-4 years, which is clearly marked on the AED. Please make sure that you order a new Pad-Pak at least 2 months before the expiry date shown.

If the battery light ever flashes red and you get the message 'battery low', then please order a new Pad-Pak immediately. You should also contact [Event Support](#) to see if a temporary Pad-Pak can be provided before your next event.

To order a new Pad-Pak please see email [Event Support](#).

Current prices are:-

Adult Pad-Pak-03 - £81.95\*

Paediatric Pad-Pak-04 - £115.21\*

\*There is £9.90 delivery charge on top of the prices quoted above.

Please check with your local authority for recycling options when replacing your battery.





## Location & storage of an AED

Evidence shows that the most likely location for an incident will be at or near your start & finish area (including incidents that happen both before and after your parkrun). If your event owns an AED, it must be located at the finish line during the event.

Note: It is recommended to take the AED to the start line if your start and finish are in different places.

It is vitally important that the Run Director on the day is contactable via mobile phone in case of an emergency, and that course marshals and Tail Walkers have the Run Director's phone number. Please check that mobile phone reception is available from all parts of the course.

Your team should also make plans for how you would deploy the AED to different parts of the course as quickly as possible. For example, do you have a bike available for use at the start/finish? If you receive information about a serious incident out on the course, please remember to always take the AED with you when attending the incident.

If your event does not own an AED, and it is located in another location close to the finish line, then you should similarly give careful consideration to how you will quickly access the AED and then transport it to different locations around the course.



**Please make sure that the location of the AED is on your Health & Safety lanyards.**



## Location & storage of an AED

### Between events

Your AED must be kept with the event team between events, and brought to the venue each week. Please do not keep the AED in storage at the parkrun venue due to the risk of theft, fire, flood and also potentially the malfunction of the device if stored at sub-zero temperatures.

### Each week

Please check that the AED is in good working order before each event. You can do this by checking that the green light is showing on the AED. Please note that you don't need to turn the AED on regularly as this will drain the battery and fill up the memory of the device. The AED performs an automatic weekly self-test and the status indicator will inform you if there is a problem with it. Please contact [Event Support](#) if your AED tells you that the memory is full.

### Every 3 months

Please switch your AED on every 3 months to check the voice prompt is working, you should hear "Adult Patient" if you don't hear any voice prompt please complete the form [here](#) and contact [Event Support](#)

On the right hand side there is a helpful checklist for the maintenance of your AED, including what to look out for each week, and over the longer term.

# DOES YOUR DEFIB PASS THE TEST?

## RECOMMENDED CHECKS FOR HEARTSINE DEFIBRILLATORS:

1

WEEKLY - CHECK ON STATUS INDICATOR HIGHLIGHTED BELOW



2

12 MONTHLY - CHECK FOR ANY PHYSICAL DAMAGE



3

12 MONTHLY - CHECK THE PAD-PAK EXPIRY DATE



## Your defibrillator is event ready if you can confirm the following:

- ✓ Status indicator is flashing green and there is no physical damage
- ✓ The Pad-Pak (combined unit of the battery and electrodes) is in date
- ✓ Defibrillator prep kit is present and complete
- ✓ If your defibrillator is not a HeartSine, please check for separate battery levels/expiry dates and pads expiry dates. Please also check the rescue readiness indicator which will be in the form of an LED or 'circle of life' - usually a digital circle

**Please note:** If the green light is flashing, but your Pad-Pak is out of date, the device carries a reserved battery with 10 shocks and 20 minutes of data recording time. This means that in the event of an emergency, the 'expired' Pad-Pak can be used, however we don't recommend this as standard practice. The same goes for if the device is flashing with a red light and saying 'battery low'.

## Location & storage of an AED

### If you do not own your own AED

If you do not own your own AED but it is located close by, please make sure that it is routine to check that it is in working order and available for the parkrun event each week.

Please remember to mention the whereabouts of the AED in your pre-event brief so that all parkrunners who are present know where it is located.

### If your AED is unavailable

If you know in advance that your AED is unavailable you should attempt to locate a replacement and if that is not possible you should cancel your event citing this as the reason for cancellation on EMS.

### Spare AEDs

If you are unable to locate a replacement AED please email [Event Support](#) as we may be able to lend you a replacement.

## AED & Risk Assessment

As part of mitigating against the risk of a critical medical incident please ensure details of your AED is added to the event Risk Assessment.

If you have received a new AED, then you will need to submit a new Risk Assessment.

On the Risk Assessment, section 4.0 should be added to confirm that the AED will be checked weekly, before the start of the event and that if it is not available, not working or missing then the event should be cancelled until there is access to a working AED.

The mitigation in section 4.0 or 4.1 should include the location of the AED during the event.



## Considerations for junior parkrun

Almost all AEDs have the ability to be used for paediatric purposes. The Aero Healthcare 'HeartSine' models of AED (like most other brands of AED) will require paediatric pads, sold as a separate Pad-Pak.

Swapping the adult pack with the paediatric pack is a straightforward process which only takes a few seconds.

The pads for children are generally smaller and may require different pad positioning (usually indicated by pictures on the pads themselves).

It's important to note that instances of cardiac emergency in children are rare and occur much less often than they do in adults. Usually a child or infant would have a respiratory emergency first (caused by injury, illness, choking, drowning, poisoning etc). That's not to say of course that it doesn't happen, because it does and can be as a result of an undiagnosed genetic heart disorder.

With the much greater likelihood of an adult suffering a cardiac emergency and with a large amount of adult volunteers/parents present at junior events, adult pads must be fitted to the AED and the paediatric pads (if you have any) readily to hand if needed.

The majority of the participants at a junior parkrun are aged over 8 years, giving further justification for keeping adult pads fitted.

The 'CPR Advisor' function on the HeartSine 500P model is intended for use with adult patients only. If the Paediatric Pad-Pak is inserted the CPR Advisor is disabled. The unit will still give clear audible/visual instructions.

### IMPORTANT NOTE:

The term 'Paediatric' refers to children and infants (babies). A child is deemed as being aged from 1 to the onset of puberty and an infant being aged under 1 year old. Many manufacturers refer to children as being from the age of 1 to 8. If you are in doubt about whether a child has reached puberty, then use the age of 8 (or over 25 Kilograms / 55 pounds) as your guide. Any child that is older than 8 years of age should be treated as an adult, and the adult protocols for CPR and defibrillation should be adopted. Do not delay treatment, trying to find out the patient's exact age/weight.

Further details can be found in the [Resuscitation Council \(UK\) Guidelines](#).

## Common Q&As

### What if I do it wrong?

AEDs are very easy and safe to use. They are designed so that they can be used by practically anyone as the AED gives clear, verbal instructions to guide you through each step.

AEDs are safe for anyone to use as safeguards have been designed into the unit precisely so that non-medical responders can't use the AED to shock someone who doesn't need a shock.

If the AED determines that no shock is needed, it will not allow a shock to be given.

### I'm nervous about using the AED

Remember that at an average parkrun event there are many people capable and qualified of deploying and using an AED.

Whilst it is good practice that the event team obtain CPR/AED awareness training, in our experience it is often a parkrunner who is medically trained who steps in, takes charge of the situation and uses the AED.

### Are there any circumstances where I shouldn't use an AED?

If someone is responsive or conscious then you shouldn't use the AED. However, if the individual is unresponsive, unconscious and not breathing, then you should proceed with CPR and go ahead and use the AED.

The person is in a critical, life-threatening condition and there are no circumstances where the use of an AED would be the wrong course of action in this situation.

### Can I get sued if I make a mistake using an AED?

Around the world, many different governments have passed legislation which protects individuals from civil liability when they attempt to save a life using an AED. This is often known as 'Good Samaritan' legislation.

We do not know of any incident where an individual has been found to be liable when using an AED in making best attempts to save a person's life.





Thank you for reading this AED Guide. If you have any questions, please contact [Event Support](#).