



San Joaquin County

Emergency Medical Services Agency



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Policy Memorandum

DATE: July 17, 2007

TO: Emergency Ambulance Providers
ALS First Response Providers

FROM: Richard N. Buys, M.D., Medical Director
Dan Burch, EMS Administrator

SUBJ.: EMS Policy No. 5711, ALS Ventricular Fibrillation/Ventricular Tachycardia

EMS Policy No. 5711, ALS Ventricular Fibrillation/Ventricular Tachycardia specifies default biphasic and monophasic energy settings for cardiac defibrillation.

In instances when the biphasic energy settings in EMS Policy No. 5711 differ with a manufacturer's recommended energy settings, paramedics are to follow the manufacturer's recommended energy settings with the **first and subsequent** shocks.

Additionally, following the initial round of resuscitation, defibrillation shocks are to be performed every two minutes, when indicated by the presence of ventricular fibrillation or pulseless ventricular tachycardia, with CPR being performed between each shock.

Questions regarding EMS Policy 5711 or the use of biphasic defibrillators should be directed to Anna Valdez, RN, MSN, CEN Quality Improvement/Trauma Coordinator at (209) 468-6721 or by email at avaldez@sjgov.org.