

# PATIENTS' FORUM

FOR THE LONDON AMBULANCE SERVICE

## DEFIBRILLATORS IN CITY OF LONDON PHARMACIES

The Patients' Forum for the LAS is supporting the campaign to encourage every pharmacy in London to install a defibrillator and ensure that staff are trained to use them and give CPR.

When the LAS receives a call suggesting a cardiac arrest, they immediately contact the five nearest organisations holding defibrillators, asking them to go without delay to the patient. A response within minutes is essential to save the person's life.

This approach fits in well with the national aspiration to reduce deaths from cardiac arrests and specifically with the aspirations of pharmacists, to save lives by extending the training and capacity of pharmacy staff to support their local communities, by reducing the number of people who die from cardiac arrest.

Every person who is trained in the use of defibrillators and CPR will also be able to save the lives of members of their family, friends and local community. Around 28% of people survive an observed cardiac arrest but, where there is a defibrillator and someone trained to use it, the chance of survival can increase to 80 per cent.

The London Ambulance Services is running a campaign to get 1,000 extra defibrillators in shops, businesses and gyms across the capital. The campaign is called 'Shockingly Easy'. Defibrillators cost very little and the LAS will offer guidance and support in buying, storing and using a defibrillator, which are safe and easy to use. Details of the campaign, how to get support from the London Ambulance Service, and the accreditation scheme are described in the information attached.

In this case, the LAS are offering high level support in the development of this proposals and will provide one LAS funded defib for every four pharmacies that sign up (i.e. if four pharmacies want defibs, they will pay for three between them and the LAS will contribute the fourth at no cost to the pharmacies). In addition, based on the fact that they will not need a whole training course for each pharmacy, and assuming that the pharmacies could group themselves so that four pharmacies could share a single training course, then the costs could be further reduced.

The retail price for a Physio Control LP1000 defibrillator, all accessories and training at commercial rates is £2,954 + VAT.

The starting point for the LAS proposal would be the heavily discounted LAS one-stop-shop prices (as attached) under which the usual cost for one pharmacy would be £1995 for defib, wall cabinet, location signs and training course. Defibs would include carry case, two sets of electrode pads and a first responder kit. The cost for

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four pharmacies would therefore normally be £7,980. Under the proposal outlined above, the cost for four pharmacies would be £5,385, or £1,346 per pharmacy.

The LAS does not normally fund defibrillators in this way, so it should not be assumed that these costings would apply to any organisation outside of the agreed pharmacy group. The costs detailed above do not include VAT.

I do hope you, the City of London Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub Committee, will feel able to support this campaign, which has the potential of saving many lives in the City London every year.

Very best wishes

Malcolm Alexander  
Chair  
Patients' Forum - London Ambulance Service

January 21 2015