



### **EMS Information Bulletin 2013-003**

**DATE:** January 17, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Use of Mechanical CPR Devices by Basic Life Support Agencies

**TO:** EMS Agencies, Regional EMS Councils

**FROM:** Bureau of Emergency Medical Services  
PA Department of Health  
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#### **BLS Use of Mechanical CPR Device**

To use a mechanical Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) device, a Basic Life Support (BLS) Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency must meet the criteria to be a High-Functioning Cardiac Arrest EMS agency and be approved by a regional EMS council.

#### **Prerequisites:**

- Licensed as a BLS transporting EMS agency.
- Participation with an Advanced Life Support (ALS) EMS agency in the Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES) program ([HTTPS://www.mycares.net](https://www.mycares.net)).
- Submission of electronic National Emergency Medical Services Information system (NEMSIS) EMS elements through the responsible regional EMS council.
- Annual submission of NEMSIS demographic elements to the responsible Regional EMS Council.
- Support and approval by the EMS agency medical director.
- Quality Improvement review of all Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest (OHCA) patient calls by the EMS agency medical director.
- Conduct ongoing High-Functioning CPR education program for at least 80% of the responding EMS Agency's providers.
- The EMS agency will agree to forward, to the responsible regional EMS council, a copy of quarterly QI reports documenting patient outcome for OHCA patients treated with a mechanical CPR device and patients treated with High-Functioning CPR.

Once the prerequisites have been met, a BLS service can apply through the responsible regional EMS council to implement use of a mechanical CPR Device.

Questions should be directed to the responsible regional EMS Council.