

EL DORADO COUNTY EMS AGENCY

FIELD PROCEDURES

805

Effective: July 1, 2013
Last Revised: August 2024
Scope: ALS

(on file)

EMS Agency Medical Director

MALFUNCTIONING AUTOMATIC IMPLANTABLE CARDIOVERTER DEFIBRILLATOR (AICD)

PURPOSE:

To provide guidance to paramedics on how to monitor and assist a patient with a physician prescribed AICD deactivating magnet to temporarily deactivate a malfunctioning AICD.

DEFINITIONS:

Automatic Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (AICD) - is a device that monitors heart rhythms, and delivers shocks if ventricular tachycardia or ventricular fibrillation is detected.

POLICY:

- 1) In the event of a malfunctioning AICD as evidenced by cardiac monitoring, paramedics may allow a patient or a patient's family member, if so trained, to place an AICD deactivating magnet on the patient's chest directly over the AICD. This may only be performed by the patient or other authorized party and must be in compliance with orders from the patient's physician.
- 2) At no time shall the paramedic personally place the AICD deactivating magnet on the patient.
- 3) Once the AICD deactivating magnet is in place cardiac monitoring shall be continuous.
- 4) If at any time the patient goes into ventricular fibrillation or ventricular tachycardia the paramedic shall immediately remove the AICD deactivating magnet.
- 5) In cases where an AICD is delivering inappropriate shocks to a patient and for whatever reason they cannot utilize the AICD deactivating magnet, the paramedic should treat the patient per applicable protocol. Pain control may be required.