



State of Maryland
Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems

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To: ALS Clinicians

From: Timothy Chizmar, MD, FACEP
State EMS Medical Director

Date: October 1, 2024

RE: Defibrillation Energy Levels

The protocol for defibrillation of adult patients in ventricular fibrillation and pulseless ventricular tachycardia has been modified.

Effective immediately, ALS clinicians should deliver defibrillation energy at the highest joule setting permitted by the cardiac device manufacturer. This revision is being made outside of the usual protocol review cycle primarily due to its potential to convert more patients out of VF or pulseless VT to perfusing cardiac rhythms without delay.

Please note that this change impacts only *adult patients in cardiac arrest with VF or pulseless VT rhythms*. It does not affect pediatric patients (less than 13 years of age) or patients who require synchronized cardioversion. Energy levels for these patients remain unchanged.

Please find the revised Protocol 12.16 – Defibrillation attached. It will also be posted to the MIEMSS website and mobile protocol app. For any questions regarding this memo, please contact me by email (tchizmar@miemss.org).