

## Safety Alert – Faulty defibrillator warning

The government has issued a warning that there are electrical faults in two models of defibrillator. This warning can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/faulty-defibrillator-warning> and contains the following information.

“People and organisations should check if they have the defibrillator models, LIFEPAK CR Plus and LIFEPAK EXPRESS Automatic External Defibrillators (AED), because an electrical fault with some of them may not deliver an electric shock to the heart to someone who is in cardiac arrest. Approximately 2,577 devices are defective.”

“The manufacturer, Physio-Control, has sent a safety alert to people with affected defibrillators, with instructions for action. Whilst there have been no reported patient incidents, it is important that the manufacturer’s instructions are followed by completing and returning the confirmation sheet immediately.”



“The fault is due to an internal component (reed switch) that can intermittently become stuck in the closed position. This could fail to deliver a shock to resuscitate a patient.”

“If the voice prompt is initiated within 5 seconds, people with affected defibrillators can still use them but should continue to monitor them in line with their routine check process until contacted by the manufacturer, Physio-Control, to arrange for the reed switch to be replaced.”

The following actions are recommended in <https://www.gov.uk/drug-device-alerts/automatic-external-defibrillator-aed-lifepak-cr-plus-and-lifepak-express-risk-of-failure-to-deliver-a-shock>

- “Ensure that all those responsible for the AED follow the instructions in the manufacturer’s Field Safety Notice (FSN) at <https://mhra.filecamp.com/public/file/2fqs-ct9k6m5d>
- To check if your AED is affected call Physio-Control customer support or visit their website at <http://www.physio-control.com/ProductNotices.aspx> and go to ‘Search Affected Devices’ and enter the serial numbers.
- If the AED is faulty, remove the unit from service and contact Physio-Control to arrange for it to be corrected.
- If you have already acted on this FSN, no further action is required.”

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