

Physician Education Express

Defibrillator Monitoring & Testing – Patient Safety Precautions



Audience: Physicians

Level II Moderate - Yellow

November 2016

This information is being distributed to Physicians and Nursing with an intentional focus on patient safety/prevention of harm. Coordination with nursing partners is essential in ensuring appropriate use of the **Zoll Monitor/Defibrillator**.

Summary:

- Testing a defibrillator while in use could result in harm to a patient
- Defibrillator testing actually delivers a shock of **30 Joules**
- A **Zoll Monitor/Defibrillator** that is attached to a patient, on the Code Cart, or at the bedside is considered in use and should not be tested

Background:

- The **Zoll Monitor/Defibrillator** is intended to provide **short-term** monitoring and intervention for the patients experiencing medical emergencies

Assessment:

- If a patient experiences a change in condition and /or is being monitored by a **Zoll Defibrillator**, then the **Rapid Response Team** should be called and the patient should be transferred to a higher Level of Care
- The **Zoll Monitor/Defibrillator** **should not** be used for long-term monitoring (patients needing monitoring following a RRT or Physician intervention should be transferred to a Higher Level of Care)

Patient Safety Recommendations:

- Defibrillator testing should ONLY be performed when the device is not in use
- Ensure the Defibrillator is plugged in at all times
- If the **Zoll Monitor/Defibrillator** is in use
 1. The device will not sound an audible alert indicating the battery is running low
 2. The device will not indicate a low battery