

MEMO



London Health Sciences Centre
Southwest Ontario Regional Base Hospital Program

Date: 2025-08-29	Program Phone: 519-667-6718
To: SWORBHP Paramedics	Toll Free Number: 1-866-554-9882
From: SWORBHP Education Team	Program Email: sworbhp@lhsc.on.ca
Subject: Rhythm Interpretation While En-Route	

The purpose of this memo is to clarify SWORBHP's stance on rhythm interpretations and/or defibrillation while **enroute to hospital**. SWORBHP supports both Primary Care and Advanced Care Paramedics who are certified and authorized in **manual defibrillation**, to continue rhythm interpretations and/or defibrillate while transporting in an ambulance if in your clinical judgement, it is safe and appropriate to do so.

This practice is supported if you believe you can accurately interpret the rhythm (ex. no artifact) and you deem it safe (ex. no risk to patient or providers) to administer defibrillation. There is no expectation that this occurs routinely and SWORBHP leaves it to the paramedic's discretion when considering this treatment enroute to hospital. The expectation remains that unless a patient arrests or re-arrests for the first time, you do not pull over the ambulance while enroute to the receiving facility.

As a reminder, the direction with Semi-Automated Defibrillators (SAED), remains that you cannot analyze while the vehicle is in motion as indicated in the Companion Document:

"When en-route and using semi-automated rhythm analysis, the ambulance must be stopped to minimize artifact and the risk of an inaccurate rhythm interpretation/analysis."

If you have any questions, please contact the SWORBHP Office at 519-667-6718 or email sworbhp@lhsc.on.ca.

Thank you for your continued commitment to safe and patient centric care.

SWORBHP Education Team