



February 26, 2009

Dear Medical First Responders,

Our 2008 initiative to provide defibrillators to our EHS Registered Medical First Response Agencies has met with new challenges and changes to product lines. The challenges arose from EHS MFR Services being required to help keep medical first responders up to date with new and emerging guidelines for CPR. The changes to defibrillator product lines were consistent among the various manufacturers in supporting the 2005 CPR guideline changes, which emphasize that effective chest compressions and early defibrillation clearly increase patient survival rates.

Unfortunately, Medtronic/Physio-Control no longer manufactures the LIFEPAK 500. Rather than support two products within the EHS MFR Program, the decision was made to select a new product to ensure uniformity across the MFR community. The defibrillator devices on the market are of exceptional quality, and the main objective was to determine the “best device” for the EHS MFR Program for all Nova Scotia.

Devices of equivalent classification, from different manufacturers, were tested by a group comprised of paramedics from the EHS Quality & Learning department, registered medical first responders, and office support staff with no medical background. Consideration was given to training, apparent durability, ease of use and return to service of the devices. The device preferred by the group was the HeartStart FRx by Philips.

Based on the evaluation of all devices, the EHS MFR Management Committee supports having the Philips HeartStart FRx as the preferred defibrillator device for the EHS MFR Program. EHS has provided additional funding to ensure that all registered and fully sponsored EHS MFR Agencies receive a Philips HeartStart FRx. Defibrillators previously provided by EHS will be returned to EHS MFR Services upon the MFR Agency receiving a Philips HeartStart FRx and appropriate in-service training.

**This is exciting news for the Nova Scotia EHS MFR Program!** Please visit [www.ehsmfr.ca](http://www.ehsmfr.ca) for future updates on this defibrillator initiative. The EHS MFR Fully Sponsored Agencies will receive information by courier within the next two months.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

Kathleen McNally,  
Senior Manager, EHS MFR Services