



Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

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IAEM endorses access to Community CPR and Defibrillators

The death of a Polish truck driver on an *Irish Ferries* ferry and more recently the untimely deaths of 4 schoolboys from apparent sudden cardiac death have prompted the Irish Association for Emergency Medicine to call for the establishment of comprehensive community based Basic Life Support (BLS) and Automated External Defibrillation (AED) initiatives.

The Association's members are at the forefront of managing cardiac arrest on arrival to hospital Emergency Departments. However the Association recognises that interventions by the Emergency Medical Services (Ambulance Services) and Hospital Services are often too late to save an individual and believes that the single intervention most likely to improve the outcome in these cases is the widespread introduction of community based BLS and AED programmes.

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