

# Life savers at Changi Airport

Defibrillators to revive heart-attack victims to be put in terminals for use by the public

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MACHINES that could make a difference between life and death for heart attack victims may soon be available in all public and restricted areas of Changi Airport's terminals, including the Budget Terminal.

The machines are automated external defibrillators or AEDs, which are found in many other airports and have also debuted in some shopping malls here for use by members of the public.

A spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) confirmed that tenders have been called for consultants to submit proposals for an AED programme at the airport.

The tender documents say that, apart from providing the defibrillators costing between \$2,000 and \$3,000 each, the CAAS will train its staff and those of other agencies operating at the airport in the use of the device.

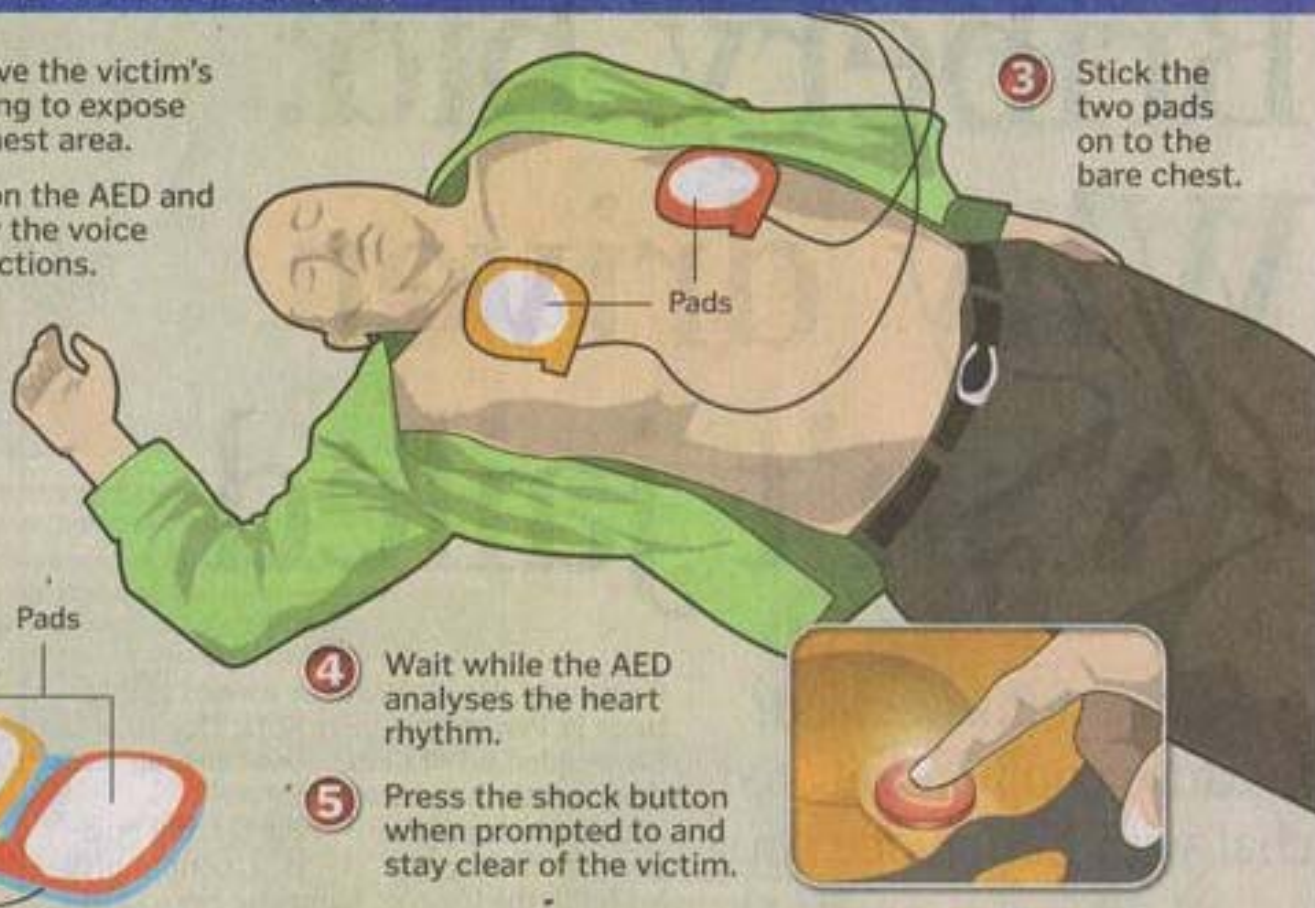
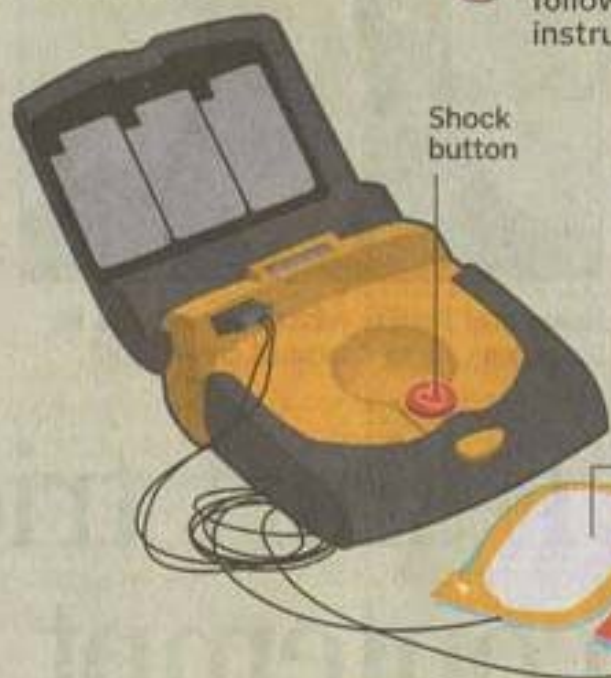
Simulation exercises will be run. Medical experts say, though, that even those who are untrained can use the device. The machine automatically analyses heart rhythms; its voice prompts will tell the user what to do next, or how many times electric shocks should be applied to the victim.

The CAAS spokesman said implementing the AED programme was part of the ongoing effort to enhance the airport's medical services.

## ■ HOW TO USE AN AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED)

AEDs have the basic voice prompt to guide the user, a shock button and two pads.

- 1 Remove the victim's clothing to expose the chest area.
- 2 Turn on the AED and follow the voice instructions.



- 3 Stick the two pads on to the bare chest.

- 4 Wait while the AED analyses the heart rhythm.
- 5 Press the shock button when prompted to and stay clear of the victim.

GRAPHICS: MIKE M DIZON

A spokesman for Raffles Medical, which runs six clinics at Changi, including a 24-hour one in Terminal 3, said the programme is a move in the right direction. She noted that as many modern airports already have AEDs, "it is only natural for Singapore Changi Airport, a world-class airport, to move in this direction".

However, Raffles Medical declined to say how many airport emergency cases its doctors have attended to in which AED support has been required.

The Singapore Heart Foundation

and the National Resuscitation Council are pushing for more public-facility owners to install AEDs.

Not many have.

The few which have done so are Ngee Ann City and VivoCity. The Home Team Academy, Singapore Island Country Club and Tanglin Club are the few non-public places which have AEDs.

If Changi goes ahead with the project, it will take four months for its terminals to be AED-equipped.

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