

POPULAR science



Philips HeartStart Home Defibrillator

More than 70 percent of sudden cardiac arrests happen at home. What better place, then, to have a machine that administers an electric shock to restore the heart's normal rhythm? Philips Medical Systems' HeartStart defibrillator, the first to be approved for home use, is similar to the novice-friendly defibrillators already deployed in ambulances and airplanes, and can administer a much-needed jolt before medical assistance has time to arrive. Available by prescription only and covered by Medicare in some cases, the unit costs \$2,300.