

AEM

Program Guide

Alternative PM for Patient Safety

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Advancing Safety in Health Technology

PREVIEW COPY Acknowledgments

This is a preview edition of an AAMI guideline. This document has benefited immensely from comments and contributions by these reviewers: Ted Cohen, Jonathan Gaey, Steve Grimes, Alan Lipschultz, Frank Painter, Malcolm Ridgway, and Dustin Telford.

For a complete copy of this AAMI guideline, visit www.aami.org. The plan for the document has always been to pull together the best thinking on topics related to alternative equipment maintenance, and the reviewers have been a big part of that effort. They have all offered valuable advice, provided helpful examples, and endured lengthy email discussions that have improved the *AEM Program Guide*.

Foreword

Alternative equipment management (AEM): Many are intimidated by this phrase. Many hope that the decisions made in the past, using this phrase, are correct. Many think this is just too much work, so they have opted to follow manufacturers' recommendations. Many doubt that that they can successfully implement an AEM program.

Many of these concerns are justified. The field has not been adequately equipped to understand the nuances of an AEM program.

Matt Baretich has taken up the challenge to write this brief on what AEM is, and to provide concrete examples and discussion. Reviewed by some of the leaders in the healthcare technology management community, this document should begin to assure those curious enough to read it that implementing an AEM program is not only possible, but will result in improved program management.

Advancing Safety in Health Technology

This valuable document is designed to bridge from where we are today (limited resources) to a project that is just beginning and sponsored by AAMI: development of a formal standard focused on AEM, with additional discussion related to contributing strategies for compliance.

Thanks Matt, and the rest of the team.

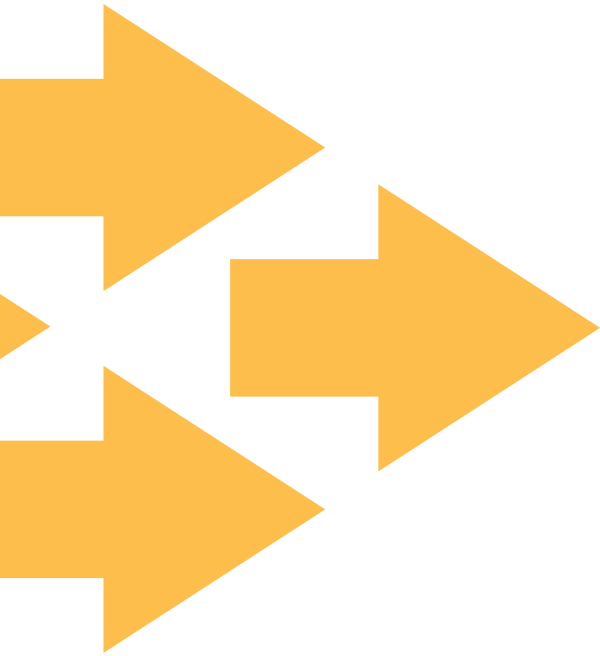
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A E M



There is a lot of confusion in the healthcare technology management (HTM) community about “AEM.” The confusion starts with inconsistent use of AEM-related terminology by regulatory and accreditation entities.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (the originator of the AEM concept) says that AEM is an abbreviation for “*alternate equipment management*”; The Joint Commission (which is a major focus of this document) says it stands for “*alternative equipment maintenance*.” Two words of disagreement in a three-word phrase! And that’s just the beginning.

Advancing Safety in Health Technology

What is an AEM program? Why might we want to implement an AEM program? How do we remain compliant with applicable standards and regulations while achieving the benefits of an AEM program?

The purpose of the *AEM Program Guide* is to help answer questions like these. Along the way, the

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document addresses AEM-related terminology and spells out the requirements of an AEM program.

More importantly, it offers some ideas for practical implementation of an AEM program, drawing on the good work of many HTM professionals. For a complete copy of this AAMI document, contact AAMI at +1-877-249-8226 or visit www.aami.org.

Let’s jump right in and review the key players.

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