

There are three types of currents that have an effect on tissue when using electrotherapeutic modalities, and each create a specific waveform. **Direct currents** have uninterrupted flow of electrons that travel in one direction only, and do not switch polarity. **Alternating currents** have an uninterrupted flow of electrons that alternate the direction they move when the polarity changes. **Pulsed currents** are interrupted currents that can be alternating or direct. The length of interruption varies based on the pulse rate.