



TO: All Advanced Life Support (ALS) Provider Agencies
All Base Hospitals and Receiving Hospitals

FROM: Humberto Ochoa, MD, EMS Agency Medical Director *HO*

DATE: April 15, 2009

RE: Moratorium on Pediatric Endotracheal Intubation for Patients less than nine (9) years old

CC: Steve Tharratt, MD, Director California EMS Authority

Effective Monday, April 27, 2009 at 12 pm, I am suspending the paramedic optional scope of practice authorization for the use of endotracheal intubation for pediatric patients less than nine (9) years old. This notice temporarily amends all Riverside County policies, protocols and procedures involving pediatric endotracheal intubation for this age group. Patients less than nine (9) years old requiring positive pressure ventilation (PPV) will be managed with the appropriate Basic Life Support (BLS) airway adjuncts and techniques per the standards established by Riverside County EMS Agency (REMS) policy 5120. All Riverside County Advanced Life Support (ALS) provider agencies are to ensure the following:

1. All uncuffed endotracheal tubes less than 6.0 mm internal diameter must be removed from all response equipment. These may not be replaced with cuffed ET tubes. Agencies utilizing uncuffed endotracheal tubes in conjunction with a meconium aspirator may retain 2.5 mm internal diameter ET tubes for the suctioning of neonatal patients per REMS policy 8600. These tubes are authorized for suctioning only and may not be used for positive pressure ventilation in patients less than nine (9) years old.
2. Pediatric laryngoscopes and Magill forceps are to remain in the equipment inventory and be utilized for foreign object airway obstruction removal per REMS policy 8830.
3. All paramedics employed by your agency who provide patient care are proficient in the assessment and management of pediatric patients per the standards established by REMS policy 5120 including modifications required by this notice.
4. A process is in place for the quality assurance (QA) review of all occurrences where positive pressure ventilation (PPV) is initiated on patients less than fifteen (15) years old. The review will be focused to ensure that all treatment rendered is compliant with REMS Protocols including modifications required by this notice. Occurrences of non-compliance with REMS Protocols must be immediately addressed by your agency's authorized ALS coordinator(s). Any issues negatively affecting patient care must be reported to REMS per established policy.

All other pediatric airway management equipment must be maintained per established protocols. It is your agency's responsibility to ensure that all paramedics in your employment within the Riverside County EMS system are notified of this moratorium and associated requirements.

If you have any questions please contact the EMS Agency at (951)358-5029.