



San Joaquin County

Emergency Medical Services Agency



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Memorandum

DATE: December 11, 2009
TO: Emergency Ambulance Service Providers
Interested Parties
FROM: Kevin O'Loughlin, Sr., B.S., MICP *olo*
SUBJ.: 2009 Policy Updates

The following is a summary of EMS Agency policies that are new, revised or have been deleted. These changes will be effective January 1, 2010. Please carefully examine the referenced policies since the summary below does not represent a complete explanation of all changes.

New Policies:

No. 2541 – Paramedic Infrequently Used Skills: Requires ALS providers to require paramedics to demonstrate competency for infrequently used skills, (i.e., adult and pediatric oral intubation).

No. 2551 – 12 Lead EKG Performance Criteria

No. 2522 – King Airway Performance Criteria

No. 2553 – Endotracheal Intubation – Pediatric Performance Criteria

No. 2554 - Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) Performance Criteria

No. 4441 – EMS Aircraft Classification and Authorization: States the requirements and procedures for classifying EMS aircraft and authorizing EMS aircraft providers to operate in San Joaquin County.

No. 4442 – EMS Aircraft Medical Control: States the procedures for on-line medical control from the time the EMS aircraft arrives on scene until the patient has arrived at an acute care facility.

No. 5102 – Patient Privacy: Provides guidance for maintaining privacy and confidentiality of protected health information.

Revised Policies:

No. 2101 EMS Dispatcher: The submission of continuing education hours has been removed and replaced with the requirement that EMD dispatchers submit a copy of their new/renewed NAEMD certification.

No. 2210 – Emergency Medical Responder (formerly First Responder): Name changed to conform with national standards. DOJ background check is now required for all new and one time for all currently certified EMR's.

No. 2310 – EMT Certification: Language was added that requires the EMS Agency to maintain DOJ results for 90 for those that are not already on file.

No. 2540 Paramedic Accreditation: Requires new paramedics to the County to attend an orientation at the EMS Agency and complete the accreditation process prior to being issued an accreditation card. Paramedics applying for continuous accreditation must attend a Policy Skills Review within 6 months of expiration.

No. 2545 – Endotracheal Intubation – Adult Performance Criteria: Significant changes to this Policy include: 1) paramedics are required to utilize a team approach when performing intubation, 2) the endotracheal tube inducer must be utilized on the first and second attempt, 3) for external laryngeal manipulation only bimanual laryngoscopy be utilized, and 4) patients will be placed in the ear to sternal notch position for intubation instead of the sniffing position.

No. 2610 – MICN Authorization: A requirement was added that MICN's have to submit a copy of their CPR card for both initial and reauthorization.

4102 – ALS Standard Medication and Equipment Inventory: There are numerous changes to required medication quantities and the deletion of the 50cc and 250cc NASL bags. The King Airway was added and has to be carried by all ALS providers by 12/31/2010; and the Combi-Tube must be removed by that date. Other significant changes include the requirement that providers must develop a daily checkout sheet which lists all required items in this Policy and that the attending paramedic on each unit is responsible to ensure that: 1) all drugs and equipment are present at the beginning of each shift, 2) all equipment is functioning properly, and 3) that all battery-powered devices are charged.

No. 4980 – Receiving Hospital Diversion: The Policy was reformatted into three sections: 1) Diversion Avoidance, 2) Hospital Initiated Diversion, and 3) EMS Agency Duty Officer Initiated Diversion. The Policy also outlines at what points a hospital or the EMS Duty officer shall place a hospital on diversion for delaying the transfer of ambulance patients from the ambulance gurney (i.e. ambulance capture).

No. 5103 – Determination of Death: A new section was added that lists Indications for Rapid Transport and Resuscitation; the special considerations section was reworded; and the time requirement for working a code on scene was reduced from 20 to 15 minutes.

No. 5700 – ALS Introduction: A paragraph was added that states the Base Hospital Physician may order any medication or procedure within the paramedic scope of practice for any patient condition regardless of the treatment protocols and what documentation is required by the paramedic for these orders.

No. 5702 – ALS Advanced Airway Management: Additions to this policy include: the requirement that the endotracheal tube inducer (ETTI) be utilized on all intubation attempts; the King Airway was added as a rescue airway; and the Cormack-Lehane grading scale was incorporated.

No. 5715 – ALS Asystole: The time listed in Line I was changed from 20 minutes to 15 minutes.

No. 5753 – ALS Seizures: In line D, the following language was added to clarify the Policy "treat as indicated for seizures per this policy".

No. 5763 – ALS Severe PreEclampsia/Eclampsia: Magnesium Sulfate administration was changed from IV piggyback to IV push. The new language states "Magnesium Sulfate 2Gms slow IVP over 3 – 5 minutes".

No. 5764 – ALS Imminent Delivery: BLS Policy numbers and names was corrected to match the BLS Policy.

No. 5906 – Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP): Reporting requirements were deleted from the Policy.

Formatting Changes Only:

- No. 2546 – Intraosseous Infusions Performance Criteria
- No. 2547 - Transcutaneous Cardiac Pacing (TCP) Performance Criteria
- No. 2548 - Needle Thoracostomy Performance Criteria
- No. 2549 - Needle Cricothyromoty Performance Criteria
- No. 2550 – Naso/Orogastric Intubation Performance Criteria

Deleted Policies:

- No. 5906A – Continuous Positive Pressure Airway Report Form
- No. 5910 - Endotracheal Tube Inducer (ETTI)
- No. 5924 – Needle Thoracostomy
- No. 5926 – Needle Cricothyromoty for Complete Airway Obstruction
- No. 5928 – Adult Oral Endotracheal Intubation
- No. 5931 – Pediatric Oral Endotracheal Intubation
- No. 5934 – Transcutaneous Cardiac Pacing (TCP)

If you have any questions, please contact me.