



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA EMS, INC.

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MEMORANDUM

To: ALS Provider Agencies
EMT-II Providers

From: Dr. Eric M. Rudnick, Medical Director

cc: Dan Spiess, Kara Davis, Debbie Harris

Date: June 11, 2010

Subject: CHANGES IN SCOPE OF PRACTICE EFFECTIVE 6/17/2010 - AFFECTING
EMT-II PROVIDERS AS THEY TRANSITION TO AEMTS.

This notification is to clarify misunderstandings regarding the transition from EMT-II to AEMT (Advanced EMT). Although the scope will be substantially the same, there are clear differences. I recently clarified these changes with the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA). I have to apologize to many of you since my prior understanding was erroneous.

The first major change is that as of the above-mentioned date (June 17, 2010) EMT-IIs will no longer be able to perform any form of intubation. There will be the potential for both administrative and legal repercussions if this occurs. EMT-IIs may continue to use the Combitube for ventilatory support and management.

To help alleviate the loss of this airway management tool, we at Nor-Cal EMS are working on the institution of the King Airway in our region. This will not require going to the State Scope of Practice Committee since it is considered a "perilaryngeal airway" which is within the current and future scope.

In addition, the scope for AEMT will not contain Benadryl. If you are faced with a patient who is experiencing an allergic reaction, you may consider epinephrine in a subcutaneous route. In addition, for bronchospasm due to allergic reaction, you can administer bronchial dilators. There will be no more Calcium solutions administered for any reason.

The last significant changes are the allowed routes of administration for Glucagon and Naloxone. Glucagon can no longer be administered IV; it is now to be administered IM (intramuscular) route only. Naloxone (Narcan) will no longer be administered IV; but still can be given IM, SQ, and IN (intranasal).

Nor-Cal EMS is currently changing our protocols for EMT-IIs to match the new Advanced EMT Scope of Practice statutes. This letter outlines the major changes you need to be aware of immediately. In addition, in the near future we will be sending to you a self-study test to be completed by July 15.

The changes mentioned in the body of this letter were voted on by the State EMS Commission and approved. The changes had been developed by a committee with EMT-II representation.

For questions or concerns, please feel free to contact EMSA at (916) 322-4336.

EMR:kvd