



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA EMS, INC.

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MEMORANDUM

To: ALL PROVIDERS

From: Eric M. Rudnick, MD FACEP
Medical Director

Date: July 8, 2009

Subject: THE USE OF ENDOTRACHEAL TUBES FOR MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

While it is still "allowed" to deliver medications utilizing the endotracheal tube during cardiac arrest, the absorption of the drugs is poor at best and it is not the preferred method.

Please establish an intraosseous (I/O) device to deliver medications for cardiac arrest and critical patients where intravenous access is not obtained. The I/O device when appropriately placed delivers the medications rapidly into the central circulation. The absorption and subsequent effects are significantly improved.

Thank you for attention in this matter.

ER:kvd