RECOMMENDATION FOR CONSIDERATION

Board Meeting Date: June 14, 2017
Subject: Changes to ALS Required Equipment List
VTR#: 0617-03 Committee/Task Force: Medical Advisory

☐ Recommended Goal ☒ Recommended Policy Change ☐ Other:

Recommendation:
The Pennsylvania Department of Health should consider amending the list of required equipment and supplies by removing the “cricothrotomy set” for all types of advanced life support vehicles.

Rationale [Background]:
This is a low frequency, complex skill that some agency medical directors believe is not necessary for their agency’s practice setting. The advent of supraglottic airways has effectively moved cricothyrotomy to a third-line method of securing an advanced airway. Moving this skill to an “optional status” provides the medical director with the flexibility to make a decision on what is appropriate from their agency.

Medical Review [Concerns]:
This recommendation is offered and has been reviewed by the MAC.

Fiscal Concerns:
For agencies whose medical directors choose not to maintain a cricothyrotomy set on board the ALS unit(s), a small amount of savings could be realized from reduced skill maintenance/verification time and replacement of expired sterile supplies.

Educational Concerns:
None

Plan of Implementation:
Upon acceptance of this recommendation, the Department should include this change in the next publication of the list of required EMS equipment and supplies.

The PEHSC Committee/Task Force offers consultation to the Department in regard to the content of this Vote to Recommend (VTR) and its attached documents. The PEHSC Committee/Task Force specifically offers staff or member support to participate in Department deliberations regarding this recommendation in an effort to convey committee/task force discussions.
Board Meeting Comments/Concerns:
None.

Signed: ___________________________ Date____________________
President

For PEHSC Use Only – PA Department of Health Response

Accept:____  Table:____  Modify:____  Reject:____

Comments:

Date of Department Response:______________