



RECOMMENDATION FOR CONSIDERATION

Executive Committee Meeting Date: May 6, 2015 Board of Directors Approval Date: May 18, 2015

Subject: Proposed Changes to EMS Provider Scope of Practice

VTR#: 0515-02

Committee/Task Force: Medical Advisory

Recommended Goal

Recommended Policy Change

Other:

Recommendation:

The Department of Health should revise the Scope of Practice for Emergency Medical Services Providers related to mechanical ventilation.

Rationale [Background]:

The Scope of Practice for Emergency Medical Services Providers, published in the PA Bulletin on January 17, 2015 [45 Pa.B. 377], contains language related to mechanical ventilation that some ALS providers, ALS agencies and medical directors perceive as confusing and, based on interpretation, could create an unintended barrier to patient transport. This perception was evident when the topic was discussed at the March 2015 meeting of the PEHSC board of directors.

This recommendation proposes the Department of Health revise the current language to mitigate confusion and ensure patient transport is accomplished in a timely fashion using resources appropriate to patient need. The proposed revisions in the attached document stratify ventilator management into three (3) categories:

1. Single mode "automated" volume control devices.
2. Single or multi-mode devices used only in volume control mode, in which the need for ventilator titration during transport is not anticipated.
3. Multi-mode devices used in pressure control/support mode or other advanced settings; or any patient, regardless of ventilation mode, in which the need for ventilator titration during transport is anticipated.

In category #1 and #2, the provider's care will be guided by Statewide ALS Protocol #4091 (Volume Control Mechanical Ventilation). Patients in category #3 would be triaged to a critical care transport team where care will be guided by Statewide Critical Care Transport Protocol #4091C (Mechanical Ventilation).

Medical Review [Concerns]:

This recommendation has been developed by and is supported by the PEHSC Medical Advisory Committee at their May 15, 2015 meeting. The PEHSC Executive Committee has also reviewed this recommendation.

Fiscal Concerns:

N/A

Educational Concerns:

The licensed EMS agency and its medical director is responsible for updating providers on any changes to the scope of practice.

Plan of Implementation:

Upon acceptance of this recommendation, the Department of Health should publish the proposed changes to the Scope of Practice for Emergency Medical Services Providers in the Pennsylvania Bulletin and notify stakeholders of this publication via RC Memo and EMS Information Bulletin.

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 – adopted by PEHSC Board of Directors via e-vote on May 18, 2015

Signed: _____ Date _____
President

For PEHSC Use Only – PA Department of Health Response

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

Comments:

Date of Department Response:_____