



PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY
HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL

Your Voice In EMS

RECOMMENDATION FOR CONSIDERATION

Subject: Review of current minimum pediatric equipment requirements

VTR: 1218-01

Committee: EMS for Children

Recommended Goal

Recommended Policy Change

Other:

Recommendation:

The Pennsylvania Department of Health should maintain the required minimum equipment list regarding pediatric size intubation tubes.

Rationale [Background]:

The Pennsylvania Department of Health requested (August 2018) the EMS for Children Advisory Committee to review the required minimum equipment standard specifically, for the use of cuffed vs. un-cuffed pediatric endotracheal tubes for intubation, in response to several inquiries made from EMS agencies and regional council offices.

The use of cuffed over un-cuffed endotracheal tubes in infant patients has become an increasingly common practice. As researched has provided evidence of the advantages of cuffed tubes, the question has been raised if it was still necessary for [EMS] agencies to be required to carry un-cuffed endotracheal tube options (4 total) as part of the minimum equipment requirement.

The current minimum standard in PA is that any advanced level emergency response vehicles must carry endotracheal intubation equipment for pediatrics that are *un-cuffed at sizes 2.5 mm or 3.0 mm (2) and 3.5 mm or 4.0 mm (2)*. The remaining sized requirements are not specified to whether they should be cuffed or un-cuffed and are at the discretion of the agency medical director. Additionally, agencies also have the option, pursuant to medical direction approval, to also carry the cuffed tubes in the above mentioned sizes if they wish, in addition to the un-cuffed.

The EMS for Children committee reviewed this topic with the goal of making a recommendation on the above endotracheal equipment. After considering several options, the committee agreed that no changes should be made to the current requirement of equipment standards on this issue. While the committee acknowledges the efficacy of the cuffed option, they felt that the risk for adverse consequences in some emergent situations were significant enough that the un-cuffed option still be required in the pre-hospital setting.

On November 28th 2018 the MAC reviewed this recommendation and had no changes.

Fiscal Concerns:

Since no change is being recommended there are no fiscal concerns with this recommendation.

Educational Concerns:

Agencies that wish to include the cuffed tubes should conduct appropriate educational training by their medical director on the benefits and potential challenges of their use.

Signed: _____ Date _____

President

For PEHSC Use Only – PA Department of Health Response

Accept: _____ Table: _____ Modify: _____ Reject: _____

Comments:

Date of Department Response: _____