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Medical Services Division

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POLICY MEMORANDUM 6300

Implementation Date: June 19, 2014
Revised Date: July 1, 2017
Review Date: July 1, 2019

REVIEWED/APPROVED BY:

Handwritten signature of Bryn Mumma in blue ink.

BYRN MUMMA, MD, MAS, EMS AGENCY MEDICAL DIRECTOR

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TED SELBY, EMS AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT) SCOPE OF PRACTICE

AUTHORITY:

CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 22, DIVISION 9, CHAPTER 2, SECTION 100063 and 100064, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2017.

PURPOSE/POLICY:

To establish EMT Scope of Practice for certified EMT or supervised EMT student operating in Solano County.

- I. During training, while at the scene of an emergency, during transport of the sick or injured, or during interfacility transfer, a certified EMT or supervised EMT student is authorized to do any of the following:
 - A. Evaluate the ill and injured.
 - B. Render Basic Life Support (BLS), rescue, and provide emergency medical care to patients.
 - C. Obtain diagnostic signs to include, but not be limited to, temperature, blood pressure, pulse and respiration rates, pulse oximetry, level of consciousness, and pupil status.
 - D. Perform Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), including the use of mechanical adjuncts to basic CPR.
 - E. Administer oxygen.

- F. Use the following adjunctive airway and breathing aids:
 - 1. Oropharyngeal airway;
 - 2. Nasopharyngeal airway;
 - 3. Suction devices;
 - 4. Basic oxygen delivery devices for supplemental oxygen therapy including, but not limited to, humidifiers, partial re-breathers, and venturi masks;
 - 5. Manual and mechanical ventilating devices designed for pre-hospital use including Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP).
 - G. Use various types of stretchers and Spinal Motion Restriction (SMR) or immobilization devices.
 - H. Provide initial pre-hospital emergency care to patients, including, but not limited to:
 - 1. Bleeding control through the application of tourniquets;
 - 2. Use of hemostatic dressings from a list approved by the Solano County EMS Agency;
 - 3. SMR or immobilization;
 - 4. Seated SMR or immobilization;
 - 5. Extremity splinting;
 - 6. Traction splinting;
 - 7. Administer oral glucose or sugar solutions;
 - 8. Extricate entrapped persons;
 - 9. Perform field triage;
 - 10. Transport patients;
 - 11. Apply mechanical patient restraint;
 - 12. Set up for Advanced Life Support (ALS) procedures, under the direction of an Advanced EMT or Paramedic;
 - 13. Perform automated external defibrillation;
 - 14. Assist patients with the administration of physician-prescribed devices including, but not limited to, patient-operated medication pumps, sublingual nitroglycerin, and self-administered emergency medications, including epinephrine devices.
- II. The Solano County EMS Medical Director may also establish policies and procedures to allow a certified EMT or a supervised EMT student who is part of the organized EMS system and in the prehospital setting and/or during interfacility transport to:

- A. Monitor intravenous lines delivering glucose solutions or isotonic balanced salt solutions including Ringer's lactate for volume replacement. Monitor, maintain, and adjust if necessary in order to maintain, a preset rate of flow and turn off the flow of intravenous fluid;
- B. Transfer a patient, who is deemed appropriate for transfer by the transferring physician, and who has nasogastric (NG) tubes, gastrostomy tubes, heparin locks, Foley catheters, tracheostomy tubes and/or indwelling vascular access lines, excluding arterial lines;
- C. Administer naloxone (Narcan) or other opioid antagonist by intranasal and/or intramuscular routes for suspected narcotic overdose;
- D. Administer epinephrine by auto-injector for suspected anaphylaxis and/or severe asthma;
- E. Perform finger stick blood glucose testing;
- F. Administer over-the-counter medications, such as Aspirin, when approved by the Medical Director.

III. EMT LOCAL OPTIONAL SKILLS

The Solano County EMS Agency may establish policies and procedures for local accreditation of an EMT student or certified EMT to perform the following optional skills. Accreditation for EMTs to practice optional skills shall be limited to those whose EMT certificate is active and are employed within the jurisdiction of Solano County EMS by an employer who is part of the EMS system.

The preferred perilaryngeal airway for use in Solano County is the King Airway. Refer to Policy 6608, Advanced Airway Management for the procedure for use of this device.

- A. Use of perilaryngeal airway adjuncts.
 - 1. Training in the use of perilaryngeal airway adjuncts shall consist of not less than five hours to result in the EMT being competent in the use of the device and airway control. Included in the above training house shall be the following topics and skills:
 - a. Anatomy and physiology of the respiratory system.
 - b. Assessment of the respiratory system.
 - c. Review of basic airway management techniques, with includes manual and mechanical.
 - d. The role of the perilaryngeal airway adjuncts in the sequence of airway control.
 - e. Indications and contraindications of the perilaryngeal airway adjuncts.
 - f. The role of pre-oxygenation in preparation for the perilaryngeal airway adjuncts.
 - g. Perilaryngeal airway adjuncts insertion and assessment of placement.

- h. Methods for prevention of basic skills deterioration.
 - i. Alternatives to the perilaryngeal airway adjuncts.
2. At the completion of initial training a student shall complete a competency based written and skills examination for airway management which shall include the use of basic airway equipment and techniques and use of perilaryngeal airway adjuncts.
 3. A skills competency demonstration shall be required for the reaccrediting EMT every two (2) years for the EMT to continue using perilaryngeal airways.

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