



DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.



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To: Marin County EMS Constituents  
From: Dustin Ballard, MD  
Medical Director Marin County EMS Agency  
Date: October 4, 2017

Re: **Interim Policy Memo 2017-3: Pediatric Intubation**

Effective immediately, pediatric intubation is no longer included in optional scope of practice for paramedics licensed in California and accredited in Marin County. This applies to children who fit on a pediatric color-coded resuscitation tape.

The body of evidence on this topic has evolved, with outcomes from numerous studies demonstrating either no benefit and/or potential harm from pediatric intubation in the pre-hospital setting. Based on this evidence, EMS Authority and the Scope of Practice Committee for the EMS Medical Directors' Association of California (EMDAC) recommended removal of this procedure from local optional scope of practice last month. This action was endorsed in the plenary session of EMDAC. EMS Authority Director, Dr. Howard Backer, has now rescinded EMSA approval of this optional skill for all California EMS systems.

The following associated policies have been updated and are available on our website. Please be sure to edit your Prehospital Care Manual(s) to reflect these changes.

- 5010 – Provider Equipment List
- ALS PR03 – Adult Oral Intubation
- ALS PR04 - ETTI
- ALS PR09 – Verification of Tube Placement
- ALS PR14 – King Procedure
- P01 – Pediatric Cardiac Arrest
- P02 – Newborn Resuscitation
- P03 – Pediatric Respiratory Distress
- P04 – Pediatric Bradycardia
- P12 – Pediatric Burns
- P18A – Pediatric Dosing Chart
- PPR02 – Pediatric Oral Intubation (Deleted)

We recommend that all EMS providers review other options for airway support in the pediatric patient, in particular, the bag-valve-mask technique.

Laryngoscopy for foreign body inspection/removal is still permitted for pediatric patients.

King Airway is approved as an ALS rescue airway for patients who are 12 years of age or older **and** 4 feet tall.

Oral endotracheal intubation is still approved for patients who are 12 years of age or older **or** their height is greater than the length of the pediatric color-coded resuscitation tape.

We will be considering supraglottic pediatric airways for local optional scope in 2018.