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MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
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MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK
COMMISSIONER

June 11, 2019

RE: Endotracheal Tubes

To whom it may concern,

Recently at a Medical Direction and Practices Board (MDPB) meeting, the group discussed that Maine EMS services are currently carrying uncuffed endotracheal tubes in common pediatric sizes. While using uncuffed ET tubes in pediatric patients was standard in the past, pediatric airway management has evolved and cuffed ET tubes are now preferred. As the Maine EMS Rules currently require uncuffed tubes, Dr. Sholl sought to have the Maine EMS Board (Board) make a statement of equivalency meaning that agencies could purchase cuffed tubes in place of uncuffed tubes. The Board at their April meeting approved this request.

Moving forward, services needing to purchase endotracheal tubes should begin buying only cuffed tubes. With the implementation of the 2019 protocols this will be established as the standard of care in Maine. Understanding the cost of replacement, the Board and MDPB have agreed that services will have until May 1, 2020 to replace all endotracheal tubes with cuffed tubes to ensure patients receive the most appropriate care.

We appreciate the financial challenges of changing equipment and have sought to provide adequate notice for budgeting. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Maine EMS, Regional Medical Directors, or Regional offices with questions.

Thank you

Jay Bradshaw, Director

Dr. Matthew Sholl, Medical Director