



San Joaquin County

Emergency Medical Services Agency



<http://www.sjgov.org/ems>

Mailing Address
PO Box 1020
Stockton, CA 95201

Policy Memorandum 2008-02

Health Care Services Complex
Benton Hall
500 W. Hospital Rd.
French Camp, CA 95231

Phone Number
(209) 468-6818

Fax Number
(209) 468-6725

DATE: January 22, 2008

TO: ALS Ambulance Providers
ALS First Response Providers
Accredited Paramedics

FROM: Richard N. Buys, M.D., Medical Director
Dan Burch, EMS Administrator

Handwritten signatures of Richard N. Buys and Dan Burch.

SUBJ.: EMS Policy No. 5703, Advanced Airway Management

EMS Policy No. 5702, Advanced Airway Management directs advanced life support (ALS) personnel to confirm patient intubation with an end tidal CO₂ detector (colorimetric or capnography) and/or esophageal detection device (EDD). Current advanced airway data indicates that appropriate secondary confirmation is not being routinely performed by ALS personnel regardless of provider. It is the expectation of the EMS Agency that all San Joaquin County paramedics shall perform intubation verification after tube placement as directed by EMS policy.

Additionally, paramedics are required to continually monitor capnography readings on all patients who have an endotracheal airway in place. Monitoring shall commence with transport and shall continue through to patient transfer at the emergency department. Capnography readings shall be numerically documented on the patient care record (PCR) and a copy of the capnography strip is to be attached to the PCR.

Questions regarding EMS Policy 5702 or advanced airway management should be directed to Anna Valdez, RN, PhD(c), EMS Quality Improvement/Trauma Coordinator at (209) 468-6818 or by email at avaldez@sjgov.org.