



Regional Emergency Medical Organization
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ADVISORY 2020-5

Re: Airway Management and Viral Filters

Distribution: All EMS Agencies, REMO Physicians

Date: March 28, 2020

Purpose: To assure the safety of our providers and the staff in the ED

Intubation and the placement of supraglottic airways are aerosolizing procedures and greatly increase the risk of viral transmission from the patient to the EMS providers. With the assistance of the hospitals and LifeNet, REMO has acquired an initial limited supply of filters that are to be placed on every ETT or SGA right after placement.

Stock of these filters is extremely limited, but our goal is to maintain safety of our providers, bystanders and the personnel at the hospital. These will be added to the regional restock list and may be restocked if the patient is transported to the hospital. If the patient is not transported, agencies may obtain a replacement from REMO until they purchase their own.

In some cases, these filters may work on an agency's CPAP circuit as well. While this will not reduce all aerosolization, it will drastically reduce the potential danger to the crew and any other personnel that are nearby.

CPAP must still be discontinued for entry into the hospital. Remove from the patient and bring to the bedside in the hospital. Do NOT discard the CPAP circuit until you check with the ED to see if they would like to use it for continued patient care.

New procedure:

Airway management in a critical patient should be managed as safely as possible for EMS providers and the staff that will be exposed to the patient after arrival at the hospital. Advanced airway placement should be accomplished by the most experienced provider in full PPE, including gown, goggles and N95 mask.

Airway management should be done preferentially with supraglottic airway or with video laryngoscopy, and not direct laryngoscopy if possible.

Following the placement of an ETT or an SGA (King LT or iGel), a filter is to be placed between the EtCO₂ device and the airway.

Even if there is a filter in place, CPAP must be discontinued for entry into a hospital.

