



C. Earl Hunter, Commissioner

Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment.

MEMORANDUM

To: All South Carolina Licensed EMS Agencies
From: Jennifer L. Paddock, Director
Date: November 15, 2011

RE: Capnography FAQ

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide clarification to the most frequently asked questions regarding the capnography mandate.

1. When do I need to use capnography?
Capnography shall be utilized on all naso-tracheal or endo-tracheal intubated patients being transported by EMS. This means an intubated patient being transported interfacility must be placed on capnography as well.
2. Which agencies will need to carry capnography devices?
Capnography will be required for any agency performing naso-tracheal or endo-tracheal intubation and those agencies that transport intubated patients interfacility. Please note that an agency may choose to carry only alternate airways (LMA's, King, or Combitube) and thus not be required to have capnography. Intubation is a Medical Control option at all service levels and is not a requirement for ALS licensure. Furthermore, if intubation is only carried on a QRV or a percentage of your fleet then you will only need capnography capabilities on those units that have intubation equipment.
3. What type of capnography device will meet the mandate?
The requirement remains the same as stated in the September 2, 2010 memo. Capnography must be printable and waveform in nature. "Printable" means available as part of the record. Units that save the data which can be uploaded or printed once synced with the computer and added to the PCR are acceptable.
4. When will I have to carry capnography devices on my ambulances?
The Department will begin enforcement on January 1, 2012.

Thank you for your continued commitment to improving patient care in South Carolina. Should you have further questions, contact Henry Lewis at (803) 545-4204.