



Monroe Livingston Region Program Agency

Division of Prehospital Medicine, University of Rochester

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To: All ALS Providers

From: Jeremy T. Cushman, MD, MS, EMT-P *JT Cushman*
Regional Medical Director

Date: July 29, 2011

Re: Advisory 11-12: Use of Orogastric Tubes

Patients with an endotracheal tube or King LTS-D Airway in place may benefit from the placement of an orogastric tube. Policy 9.27 – Use of Orogastric Tubes, specifically authorizes a paramedic to place an orogastric tube in patients 12 years of age or greater who are orotracheally intubated or have a King LTS-D Airway in place.

The ability of any ALS provider to carry and utilize orogastric tubes must be authorized by the Agency Medical Director. This policy is permissive and does not require ALS agencies in the MLREMS region to carry and use orogastric tubes, nor does it require that every intubated patient receive an orogastric tube.

The Program Agency has developed a training video consistent with this policy. Agencies choosing to carry orogastric tubes are encouraged to use this training to establish common knowledge, however hands-on training is imperative.

The Use of Orogastric Tubes Policy is attached to this document and available online [here](#). This policy is effective immediately.

The vodcast training is not mandatory, but highly encouraged for agencies choosing to carry orogastric tubes. One-half hour of ALS CME is available upon satisfactory completion of the post test. The link for this training is [here](#).

With any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Regional Program Agency.

9.27 USE OF OROGASTRIC TUBES

PURPOSE

This policy outlines the indications for placement of orogastric tubes.

POLICY

Orogastric tubes may be placed when available by EMT-P providers trained in its use according to manufacturer's guidelines, the following procedure, and as approved by the Agency Medical Director. The Agency choosing to carry orogastric tubes must assure providers are trained and that the training is approved by the Agency Medical Director.

I. Indications

1. Patient is 12 years of age or greater
2. Patient is orotracheally intubated or a King LTS-D is in place

II. Contraindications

1. Caustic ingestion
2. Known esophageal disease (varices, esophageal cancer, etc)

III. Procedure

1. Size and measure patient for desired orogastric tube.
2. Adequately lubricate with water-based lubricant.
3. Insert into oropharynx and advance to appropriate measured depth.
4. If a King LTS-D is in place, the appropriately sized orogastric tube may be advanced to appropriate measured depth through the decompression port of the King LTS-D. Under no circumstances may the tube be placed around any King airway device.
5. Confirm placement by auscultation following expulsion of a large volume syringe filled with air attached to the orogastric tube.
6. Secure the orogastric tube.
7. Manually provide intermittent suction. Under no circumstances should the orogastric tube be left on continuous suction.
8. Insertion of an orogastric tube should not delay transport.
9. No medications or fluids may be administered via the OG tube without direct, on-line medical control.
10. Once placed, the tube should remain until removed by hospital personnel unless the patient self-extubates prior to hospital arrival.

Approved 2/21/2011