Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency

Serving San Bernardino, Inyo, and Mono Counties

Virginia Hastings, Executive Director
Reza Vaezazizi, M.D., Medical Director

DATE: **April 15, 2009**

TO: EMS Providers – ALS, BLS, EMS Aircraft

FROM: Reza Vaezazizi MD, Medical Director

SUBJECT: **UPDATE ON USE OF CPAP**

On March 17, 2009 the Medical Advisory Committee met and discussed the implementation of CPAP and the status of approved devices within our region. MAC recommended that the Emergent product be recognized as the only approved CPAP device, thus removing the currently approved Boussignac device as an option. The recommendation further requested delaying the mandatory implementation date to January 2010 to allow providers to comply with this change.

After careful consideration and close discussion with several ALS providers, I have determined that ICEMA is unable to accept MAC's recommendation. The recommendation would not only represent a significant change in our current implementation planning without any significant improvement in the quality of care provided to our patients, but would also have a significant negative impact financially and logistically for several ALS providers who have already planned and budgeted to purchase the Boussignac device.

Both products are FDA approved for delivery of CPAP and are widely used by EMS systems across the United States. In fact, MAC previously evaluated and approved both devices as acceptable options, given that both comply with our current CPAP protocol and are capable of delivering pressures up to 15cmH2O.

The CPAP topic will be on the agenda for the next MAC meeting scheduled on June 22, 2009. This will allow for further discussion of any questions or concerns regarding the subject. In the meantime, we remind providers that our current plan of implementing CPAP by July 1, 2009, remains in effect and both Boussignac and Emergent products will be acceptable to use.

If you have any questions, please contact Iris Pena, RN at (909) 388-5813 or IPena@cao.sbcounty.gov.

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