

Advanced airway competency evaluation - Action needed now

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Importance: High

Attachments: ETI w bougie F16.pdf (73 KB)

As the new SOP is rolling out, you may have seen that intubation will remain in the ALS scope of practice, not only for adults, but adding one attempt per OLMC in a child if unable to ventilate and oxygenate with BLS airways.

What is not yet fully determined, is how the System will maintain and measure competency in advanced airways for all patients going forward.

One step will be to hold a mandatory in-station class each November, measuring competency in the pit crew approach to cardiac arrest management. This will replace the annual isolated airway testing that used to be held in November, but transitioned to January for the past few years.

Within that class we will simulate adult and pediatric resuscitation, rotating each paramedic through at least the three critical roles of team leader, airway mgt, and vascular access/medication administration, thus also evaluating all paramedics on the skill of advanced airway insertion.

Our data continue to show opportunity to improve first and second attempt intubation success rates. We know that there are many causes for this and the solutions will need to be flexible and expand on how we currently do things. After multiple discussions at many meetings, we hear clearly your commitment to best possible patient care, so **the skill evaluations done by EMS agency Peer Educators will likely be reinstated but the process will need to change in order to be more effective.**

We will be bringing some ideas to the January Education Committee meeting to hear your thoughts and work with you to craft a plan before taking it to the chiefs at their January meeting. We would invite all PEMSCs and System educators to attend the January Education Committee meeting to participate in the discussions.

ACTION NEEDED NOW:

In July, we asked you to hold off on the first quarter intubation skill evaluations as we were unclear as to whether intubation would stay or go. Now that it will remain, **please complete a scenario-based DAI with bougie skill competency evaluation for each medic** using the attached skill sheet by the **end of January 2017**. Provide copies of your signed rosters (do not need to send the competency forms unless they are requested) to your assigned hospital EMSC by February 6th. Keep the signed forms for each paramedic for audit purposes.

After the January System meetings, we will post the approved plan moving forward for the rest of this academic year and extending into 2017-18.

If you have any questions on using the attached form or the requested process, please contact me, and Dr. O and I will be happy to answer them.

Best regards,

Connie J. Mattera, MS, RN, EMT-P, TNS

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