



McHenry Western Lake County EMS System System Memo #24-1

To: MWLC EMSS PERSONNEL
From: MWLC EMSS
Date: 02/13/24
RE: AIRWAY MANAGEMENT EXPECTATION

Purpose: Clarify the direction provided in MWLC EMSS Region IX SOP regarding:

1. The intent of the statement "...preferred in adults..." on page 21 (Cardiac Arrest) in referencing Endotracheal Intubation versus iGel (BIAD) in managing airways.
2. The intent of the statement "...in order of preference..." on page 11 (Drug Assisted Intubation) in sedating patients for advanced airway placement.

Goal: Meet expectations of consistent high-quality patient care according to MWLC EMSS Region IX SOP.

There may exist some confusion over direction provided in MWLC EMSS Region IX SOP. In regards to performing ALS airway management when indicated, endotracheal intubation is the expected outcome for all patients greater than twelve years old, or 35 kg (77 pounds). The iGel (BIAD) is an *alternate advanced airway* indicated for placement to manage an airway in the following circumstances:

1. After failed endotracheal intubation attempts.
2. In rare circumstances when deemed appropriate as a first attempt due to unusual complications or presentations.
3. In MWLC EMSS, when advanced EMS personnel are not available to manage the airway. BLS EMS personnel are authorized to place an iGel (BIAD) if:
 - a. The BLS EMS personnel have successfully passed skill competency.
 - b. The BLS EMS personnel remain current on successfully passing quarterly skill testing.

This expectation of managing advanced airways is for all patients managed by MWLC EMSS Region IX SOP regardless of the specific page references detailed in the purpose of this memo.

When utilizing Drug Assisted Intubation, Ketamine is the medication to utilize unless contraindicated or unavailable. Etomidate serves as an alternate medication *when Ketamine is contraindicated, unavailable, or ineffective*. Ketamine is also the medication to utilize for continued sedation *unless contraindicated, unavailable, or the supply is exhausted*. Midazolam serves as the alternate medication.

MWLC EMSS seeks to support understanding, confidence, and success in meeting patient care expectations. Please contact the EMS office through individual agency EMS Coordinators if additional support is needed.

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