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EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

DATE: March 16, 2023

TO: BASE HOSPITAL COORDINATORS
ERC MEDICAL DIRECTORS
911 PROVIDER EMS COORDINATORS/MANAGERS
IFT-ALS NURSE COORDINATORS
PARAMEDIC TRAINING CENTERS
BLS AMBULANCE PROVIDERS

FROM: CARL H. SCHULTZ, MD
ORANGE COUNTY EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: NEW POLICIES and CLARIFICATIONS/UPDATES OF EXISTING EMS DOCUMENTS

C.A.S.

Typically, the Orange County EMS Agency reviews, updates, and edits its policies, procedures, and standing orders on a biannual basis. New policies may also be added. From time to time, the agency may also need to issue updates on an impromptu basis, as such actions can't wait until the next cycle. It is now time to publish our next scheduled update. I am listing, immediately below, the documents that will be added to the Upcoming section of our website (<https://www.ochcahealthinfo.com/ems>) for April 1, 2023. Several existing documents will also be removed.

APRIL 1, 2023 EMS UPDATES

POLICIES

- 140.10 Transportation Advisory Subcommittee Bylaws: Under section *IX. Meetings*, the day of the meeting has been changed from the fourth Wednesday of the month to the first Wednesday of the month. The meeting months have not changed.
- 230.00 List of Emergency Receiving Centers: Chapman Global Medical Center has been removed from this list.
- 450.00 Paramedic/Mobile Intensive Care Nurse Informal Performance Review: Since OCEMS no longer has authority over paramedic licensing or discipline, except in very limited circumstances, this policy has been modified to remove all references to paramedics. It will retain all language that addresses MICN performance. The new policy title has been changed to reflect this, and will be listed as, *Mobile Intensive Care Nurse Informal Performance Review*.

- 600.05 Community (Spoke) Emergency Receiving Center Assignments to Base Hospitals: Children's Hospital of Orange County has been added to the list of base hospitals and Chapman Global Medical Center has been removed as a spoke hospital for Orange County Global Medical Center.
- 730.10 Ambulance Rules and Regulations Air Ambulance Service Provider Criteria: Under section *IV. E. Data Collection*, item #3. has been deleted as it is no longer necessary, having been replaced by implementation of the OC-MEDS ePCR. Item #4 has been renumbered as item #3.
- 730.15 Ambulance Rules and Regulations Air Rescue – BLS and ALS Air Rescue Service Provider Criteria: Under section *IV. E. Data Collection*, item #3. has been deleted as it is no longer necessary, having been replaced by implementation of the OC-MEDS ePCR. Item #4 has been renumbered as item #3.

PROCEDURES

The following BLS procedures will be deleted as they have now been incorporated into the basic scope of practice for EMTs in California:

B-020 (assist patient with their own prescribed metered dose inhaler)

B-025 (assist patient with their own prescribed aspirin for chest pain/cardiac ischemia)

STANDING ORDERS

- SO-M-15 Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis – Adult/Adolescent: This policy has been substantially re-written. The major changes reflect how the symptom are classified and the subsequent treatments ordered. There are now only two sections: *I. Allergic Reaction* and *II. Anaphylaxis*. The definitions for these to patient types is now more detailed and specific. Treatments are stratified based on the symptom category. Administration of epinephrine is the first priority for patients requiring medication.
- SO-P-10 Newborn Care: Under section NEWBORN IN DISTRESS, Gasping Respirations/Apnea/HR < 100/minute, the initial gas for bag-valve-mask ventilation is now room air. This is changed to 100% oxygen if no response in 5 minutes.
- SO-P-20 Traumatic Cardiopulmonary Arrest – Pediatric: The following language was added and labeled as item #1; *Initiate and maintain uninterrupted CPR*. The rest of the order items were renumbered to reflect the addition of the new item #1. The old item #4 (new item #5) was edited to remove, *at 6L/min flow rate* and replace with, *as is indicated and tolerated*. Item #9 was added to prohibit the use

of epinephrine in an obvious traumatic arrest. Lastly, two bulleted items were added as Treatment Guidelines.

SO-P-60 Allergic Reaction/Anaphylaxis – Pediatric: This policy has been substantially re-written. The major changes reflect how the symptom are classified and the subsequent treatments ordered. There are now only two sections: *I. Allergic Reaction* and *II. Anaphylaxis*. The definitions for these to patient types is now more detailed and specific. Treatments are stratified based on the symptom category. Administration of epinephrine is the first priority for patients requiring medication.

SO-T-10 Traumatic Cardiopulmonary Arrest – Adult/Adolescent: The following language was added and labeled as item #1; *Initiate and maintain uninterrupted CPR*. The rest of the order items were renumbered to reflect the addition of the new item #1. The old item #6 was removed as it is redundant. The issue of an advanced airway is previously addressed in the old item #1 (now item #2).

The following standing orders will sunset on April 1, 2023 and will no longer be displayed on the OCEMS website:

IFT-SO-1; IFT-SO-2a and IFT-SO-2b; IFT-SO-3; and IFT-SO-4

The language in these standing orders has been incorporated into other existing standing orders and policies.