



USE OF TRANSPORT VENTILATORS

PURPOSE

This policy outlines the minimum equipment, training, and quality assurance requirements for the use of transport ventilators in the Prehospital environment.

POLICY

This policy does not define the circumstances of transport ventilator use. Regional protocols shall be the sole authority on how such a device is utilized in the Prehospital setting. This policy defines who are credentialed by their agency and authorized by their Agency Medical Director to use such equipment.

Transport ventilators may be used when available by paramedic providers trained in its use according to manufacturer's guidelines and as approved by the Agency Medical Director. The agency using such a device must have a written policy outlining how they will implement the prescribed MLREMS training requirements, eligibility, quality assurance program, and parameters for use of the specific device being used by the agency.

DEVICE REQUIREMENTS

Devices must be FDA approved. Additionally, the transport ventilator must, at a minimum, possess:

- Adjustable ventilator rates between 8 and 20 breaths per minute
- Adjustable tidal volumes between 200 and 1000ml
- High pressure alarm

TRAINING CONSIDERATIONS

Implementation of a transport ventilator program requires additional training and review above and beyond the standard New York State Paramedic Curriculum. The training for the use of any transport ventilator program should include a didactic/competency module presented by the Agency Medical Director or their designee. This didactic/competency module should, at a minimum, include:

- An overview of the use of positive pressure ventilation
- Control of ventilation using a mechanical ventilator, including modes of cycling, pressure limits, alarm meanings and standard settings
- Pulmonary/ventilator mechanics
- Assessment of ventilator status, including respiratory and ventilator failure
- Hemodynamic effects of positive pressure ventilation and PEEP
- Barotrauma
- Monitoring of patient ventilator status while on a ventilator
- Troubleshooting ventilator failure and alarms
- Competency-based evaluation of proper set-up, use and troubleshooting of the equipment, including scenario-based problems.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Any paramedic who maintains credentials at the SCT level has met the above criteria for continuing education in ventilator use. Paramedics who are not credentialed as SCT providers must successfully



complete 6 hours of didactic continuing education and pass a competency based evaluation for proper set-up, use, and troubleshooting of their ventilator on an annual basis. The agency is responsible for maintaining records regarding currency of credentials.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

A written Quality Assurance plan approved by the Agency Medical Director must exist for monitoring the appropriate use of transport ventilators. It is expected that any use of the transport ventilator will be reviewed by the Agency Medical Director.