

Subject: Automatic Ventilation During Interfacility Transfers

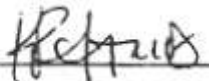
Associated Policies: 6511

I. Policy

- A. Only North Coast EMS approved automatic ventilator provider agencies may carry and employ automatic ventilators.
- B. ALS provider agencies desiring to employ automatic ventilators must do so according to North Coast EMS Policy 6554 "Approval of New ALS Interventions."
- C. Provider agencies may only be approved for the device/devices for which their personnel have been trained.
- D. All provider paramedics must complete **at least 2 hours** of training on the use of the automatic ventilatory device for which they have been approved.
- E. Automatic ventilator training must be conducted by a respiratory therapist, registered nurse or physician.
- F. The training curriculum should include, at minimum:
 - 1. Indications
 - 2. Contraindications
 - 3. Physiology
 - 4. Pathophysiology, including the signs and symptoms of biotrauma
 - 5. Calculating Minute Volume
 - 6. Time to empty calculations based on prescribed oxygen delivery rate and oxygen available on the transporting ambulance. (Corresponding calculation tables should be carried on all provider ambulances.)
 - 7. Automatic ventilator provider device specific oxygen delivery mechanism and troubleshooting.
- G. No paramedic may use an automatic ventilator for which their provider agency has not been approved and for which they have not received the 2 hours of required initial training - or at least 2 hours of maintenance training - within the previous 24 months.
- H. North Coast EMS approved automatic ventilator provider agencies must maintain documentation of initial and maintenance training, including instructor signatures, for at least 4 years.

II. Indications

For the ventilation of patients requiring automatic ventilation during inter-facility transfers (IFTs) **only** as deemed necessary by the sending hospital physician.

Approved: 

Approved as to Form: 