

January 3, 2018

To: All Field Personnel

From: Kern County Emergency Medical Services

RE: Removal of Pediatric Intubation, Nitro/Heparin/Blood Product Transfers

Effective January 1st, 2018 Kern County EMS has eliminated Pediatric Intubations from the local paramedic scope of practice. This means paramedics will no longer have the ability to perform endotracheal intubation on any patient 14 years old or younger.

Paramedics will maintain the ability to use a laryngoscope blade to visualize the pediatric airway and utilize Magill forceps for removal of any foreign bodies obstructing the airway. Therefore, pediatric size laryngoscope blades will remain on the required MICU inventory list but un-cuffed endotracheal tubes shall be removed from the MICU inventory.

Additionally, the ability for paramedics to monitor Nitro/Heparin drips as well as blood product infusions during transfers has also been removed from the local scope of practice. This means paramedics shall not initiate a transfer with one of these medications being infused. If a transfer of a patient with one of these medications is necessary, the patient shall be accompanied by a Registered Nurse, either from the sending hospital or through an available CCT unit.

If you have any questions, feel free to give the EMS Division a call at (661) 321-3000.

Thank you.