



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES


Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

Karen L. Bowling
Cabinet Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 24, 2013

TO: All EMS Providers

FROM: Michael Mills, DO
State EMS Medical Director 

RE: Expansion of Scope of Practice for EMT:
Management of a clamped NG Tube by EMT's

The MPCC and I have agreed to allow EMT's to transport patients with a preexisting NG Tube in place. Agency Medical Directors should provide education for the EMT on care and complications to look for. This addition to Scope of Practice is limited to the following conditions and is for monitoring only.

A Nasogastric Tube (NG Tube) may be monitored and managed by a BLS crew during transport if:

- The NG Tube is inserted in the hospital, nursing home, other healthcare facility; or if the patient has a preexisting NG Tube.
- The NG Tube is clamped. It cannot be hooked to suction during transport.
- BLS crew may not establish an NG Tube, they can only monitor.

This procedure will be included in the BLS Scope of Practice as of August 1, 2013.

cc: Medical Policy Care Committee
Medical Command Centers
WV EMS TSN
All Agency Officials
All Agency Medical Directors

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