

**Emergency Medical Services Agency**

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**Public Health Department**

Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System



October 26, 2008

**To:** Santa Clara County Paramedic Coordinators  
Santa Clara County EMS System Stakeholders

**From:** Josh Davies   
Section Manager

**Copy:** David Ghilarducci, MD  
Medical Director

Bruce H. Lee  
Director

**Subject:** Paramedic Equipment Change Notification ~  
King Airway Management Device

The California Emergency Medical Services Authority has approved the use of the King Airway device by Local Emergency Medical Services Agencies. The Santa Clara County EMS Medical Director, Dr. Ghilarducci, has reviewed the advantages and disadvantages of this device and has determined that it will replace the Combitube airway management device in January of 2010.

Orientation and training to the King Airway will occur at the 2010 EMS Update/Train-the-Trainer program (September 2009). In cooperation with Stanford University, the County expects to offer airway simulation laboratories in the spring of 2009 to assist trainers with manipulative skills used in airway management situations. This will provide an opportunity to practice multiple airway management skills, including the King Airway. Additional information related to training/simulation opportunities will be provided shortly.

It is anticipated that the King Airway may be indicated for use only for the adult patient; the indications for use in the pediatric patient are still being evaluated. Therefore, Paramedic Coordinators should develop budgets assuming devices will be required for both pediatric and adult patients.

***Dedicated to the health of the whole community***

*The Public Health Department is a division of Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System, owned and operated by the County of Santa Clara.*

Effective January 2010, Santa Clara County Prehospital Care Policy #302 ~ Minimum Inventory Requirements will be revised as follows:

- Dual-Lumen Airways (Combitubes) will be deleted entirely.
- ALS Transport and ALS Non-Transport units will be required to carry one (1) King Airway device of each size (three sizes) for the adult, and potentially one (1) pediatric King Airway device of multiple sizes (if applicable).

This memorandum has been issued to provide notice of impending inventory changes for department/company budgeting purposes. Questions related to clinical care considerations should be routed through appropriate stakeholder committees or to Anne Marcotte at [anne.marcotte@hhs.sccgov.org](mailto:anne.marcotte@hhs.sccgov.org)

Thank you for your continued support of our Emergency Medical Services System.