



BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

EMS Information Bulletin - #066

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SUBJECT: Guidelines for CPAP Devices

TO: Pennsylvania EMS Organizations & Personnel

FROM: Bureau of Emergency Medical Services
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The Bureau of EMS has received a number of inquiries regarding Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) devices and the characteristics of these devices. The CPAP protocol states a CPAP device must be approved by the Service Medical Director and have a manometer or other device that can regulate the Positive End Expiratory Pressure (PEEP).

Currently the Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council (PEHSC) Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) is reviewing equipment requirements for CPAP devices. The following items should be considered by Service Medical Directors when recommending what device their service should consider:

- The device must be portable and oxygen or battery-powered.
- The device must be capable of delivering at least 80% oxygen.
- The device must have manometer or other means of regulating PEEP delivered.
- The device must have a disposable mask/breathing circuit.

The Bureau of EMS is offering this guidance regarding CPAP devices to assist services, but additional recommendations or requirements may be considered after the MAC completes their review.