



Medical Advisory

MA-2020-02

Transfer of Patients with Respiratory Support in the Emergency Department

For: Paramedics certified by the RPPEO

Issue date: March 23, 2020

Effective date: March 23, 2020 until rescinded on April 6 following distribution of MAC guidance

Key message

Paramedics should briefly pause BVM ventilation while maintaining a tight face seal during the ED transfer of care. This applies to all patients.

Paramedics should:

1. Pre-alert the receiving ED of an incoming patient who is getting BVM ventilation.
2. While maintaining a **tight seal** of the mask, pause BVM ventilation as briefly as possible during a well-coordinated transfer of care. The pause should be from exiting the ambulance until inside the designated resuscitation area.
3. Follow direction of ED staff, who will navigate you and the incoming patients to the designated resuscitation area.

Background

Mechanical ventilation such as that provided by BVM may generate aerosols that could contaminate unprotected staff or equipment.

The goal of pausing BVM ventilation during ED transfer is to decrease transmission of COVID-19.

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