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In response to recent inquiries regarding LMA's, CNYEMS has put together a question and answer sheet that may help to clarify some common questions.

Q. Are LMA's mandatory equipment that must be part of the ALS minimum equipment inventory?

A. Yes. LMA's are required equipment that must be on the ambulance/ALS response unit. Also, sufficient replacement stock must be available as an inventory item in the agencies physical plant.

Q. When is the final date for compliance?

A. The final date for compliance is November 1, 2001. On this date, each ALS ambulance/ response unit are required to carry at least one set of LMA's (sizes 3,4,5).

Q. Who is able to use the LMA?

A. EMT-I, AEMT-CC's and EMT- P's are the only prehospital care providers that can be trained to use LMA's. Each of these providers must be inserviced on the LMA for use in the field.

Q. Is the LMA a required skill for the current CME semester?

A. Yes. Although LMA's are not listed in the current 2001 CME book for EMT-I, AEMT-CC's and EMT-P's as a skill, they are required to demonstrate the skill of LMA placement. Upon successful demonstration of the LMA skill, the CME evaluator should document this, on the skills page of the CME book. They should then sign and date the notation and put their EMT #.

Q. Can an ET tube be passed through the LMA Unique in the prehospital field?

A. No. Although some literature suggests that ET's can be passed through the LMA, the style of LMA that is being used by prehospital care providers does not allow for the passing of an ET tube. Per REMAC, it was decided that this skill is not allowed in our protocol. Additionally, prehospital care providers are not trained for this skill.

Q. Is an ambulance out of service if an LMA has been used, and there are no additional replacements available in the vehicle?

A. No and Yes. If there is replacement stock available at the agencies physical plant, or there are other sizes available on the ambulance/ALS response unit, then NO the unit will not be considered out of service until the proper size LMA can be restocked to the unit's inventory.

If there are no replacement LMA's available to restock the unit, then YES the unit will be considered out of service until proper restocking can take place. It is recommended that each ALS unit carry 2 sets of LMA's (sizes 3,4,5) and one additional set of replacements at the agencies physical plant.

Q. Can an agency apply for an extension to carry the LMA's?

A. Yes. Any agency that is unable to meet the requirement to carry the LMA's, can apply for an extension. This can be done by sending a letter to CNYEMS, explaining the reason for the extension. Each request will be decided upon individually.

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Q. Can a individual prehospital care provider apply for an extension on their CME skill requirement of LMA inservicing and demonstration?

A. No. The requirement for EMT-I, AEMT CC and EMT-P skills demonstration is due with the 2nd semester CME skills, due before 10/31/01.

Q. Can CME evaluators receive additional training for LMA's?

A. Yes. CNYEMS is in the process of planning additional training dates. These dates, times and places will be announced soon.

Q. Can Medications be given down the LMA?

A. No. Medications cannot be given down the LMA.

Q. If a more advanced level provider arrives after an LMA has already been placed by a lesser level provider, Can the higher level provider remove the LMA and attempt endotracheal intubation?

A. No. Once the LMA has been placed, it should not be removed to attempt Endotracheal Intubation.

Q. Can an arrest be terminated in the field with an LMA in place?

A. Yes, an arrest may be terminated in the field with an LMA in place. Remember that an LMA can be placed only after unsuccessful attempts at Endotracheal Intubation. They should not be the first line of airway management.

Q. Who can I talk to about LMA questions or other questions or concerns.

A. CNYEMS can be contacted @ 464-4862, or you may contact the Regional Clinical Coordinator, Terri Allen @ 315 374-8793. Training videos and materials are available upon request.