

# EL DORADO COUNTY EMS AGENCY

## FIELD POLICIES

Effective: July 1, 2011

Updated: July 12, 2012

**Revised: July 1, 2016**

Scope: ALS and Authorized BLS Personnel



EMS Agency Medical Director

### VERIFICATION OF ADVANCED AIRWAY PLACEMENT

#### PURPOSE:

This policy shall establish the minimum standard for verification of advanced airway placement.

#### POLICY:

- 1) Proper placement of the advanced airway shall be performed immediately after:
  - a. Initial placement.
  - b. Any substantial patient movement (e.g., floor to gurney, etc.).
  - c. Signs of poor ventilation/oxygenation are noticed.
  - d. Before and after transfer of care to another healthcare provider (e.g., first responder to transporting paramedic, paramedic to air unit personnel, or paramedic to ER staff).
- 2) PCR documentation shall include verification of airway placement following any of the events listed in section one. Documentation should include monitor strip of EtCo<sub>2</sub> tracing whenever instituted for each event listed above.

#### PROCEDURE:

- 1) Verification of proper placement of the advanced airway shall be by the following:
  - a. Four point auscultation of the anterior chest at approximately the second intercostal space, and at approximately the fourth intercostal space; and
  - b. Auscultation over the epigastrium; and
  - c. An attempt at visual confirmation should be made following intubation with any device including nasal intubation.
  - d. End tidal CO<sub>2</sub> indication by colorimetric device may be used for initial confirmation. Colorimetric device is mandatory if ETCO<sub>2</sub> is not readily available.
  - e. Continued monitoring of ETCO<sub>2</sub> shall be instituted when available\*.

\*Refer to the ETCO<sub>2</sub> Procedure.