



BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

EMS Information Bulletin - #066

DATE: January 30, 2009
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 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 PEEP (positive end expiratory pressure).

Currently the PEHSC Medical Advisory Committee 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:

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

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