



County of Santa Clara
Emergency Medical Services System
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

Number: AO 2020-003
Title: Policy 700-A07: Cardiac Arrest
Policy 700-A11: Respiratory Distress
Policy 700-M12: Continuous Positive Airway Pressure
Effective: April 2, 2020
[Revised and reissued on May 13, 2020]
[Second revision and extension effective on December 22, 2020]

I. Declaration

The Santa Clara County Emergency Medical Services Agency has determined that an unscheduled temporary policy modification to the following *Santa Clara County Prehospital Care Policies* are required:

- *Protocol 700-A07 [Cardiac Arrest]*
- *Protocol 700-A11 [Respiratory Distress]*
- *Protocol 700-M12 [Continuous Positive Airway Pressure]*

Consistent with *Santa Clara County Prehospital Care Policy 109: Policy Development and Implementation*, the EMS Director, or designee, may issue Administrative Orders when immediate changes are necessary.

II. Statement of Change and Rationale

The transmission of SARS-CoV-2 is believed to be by respiratory droplet and by hand-to-eye/nose/mouth contact from surfaces. However, there remains uncertainty about aerosol transmission. As the number of cases increase in our EMS system, Protocols 700-A07, 700-A11 and 700-M12 will be temporarily modified regarding treatment with nebulized albuterol and cardiac arrest airway management strategy.

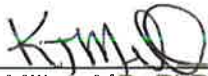
PPE remains the principal protection from exposure to respiratory aerosols and droplets and to contact pathogens. For COVID-19, when performing aerosol-generating procedures that PPE is eye protection, P-100 respirator, gloves and gown. To reduce that risk further, modifications will be made to cardiac arrest airway management and the indications for nebulized albuterol:

- 700-A07: For patients in cardiac arrest, transition airway management to an LMA as soon as feasible to shorten the time of BVM use and to avoid intubation.

- 700-A11: For patients with fever, shortness of breath, cough and mild bronchospasm, reserve the administration of nebulized albuterol for pulse oximetry less than 94% on or off oxygen **unless in the judgment of the treating paramedic that the symptoms are severe enough to warrant treatment.**
- 700-M12: For patients with fever, shortness of breath, cough, reserve the application of CPAP for pulse oximetry less than 94% on or off oxygen **unless in the judgment of the treating paramedic that the symptoms are severe enough to warrant treatment.**

III. Execution

Administrative Order # 2020-003 was made effective on April 2, 2020. This Administrative Order was initially operationalized for sixty days and was set to expire on May 31, 2020. Due to inventory shortages, this order was extended to December 31, 2020. Due to continue inventory shortages, this order has been extended for a second term and will remain in effect until **June 30, 2021.**



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