



Emergency Medical Services Agency

Bulletin 2023-08 – December 20th, 2023

URGENT

PLEASE POST

Supraglottic Airway Utilization

In July 2023, the County of San Luis Obispo Emergency Medical Services Agency (SLOEMSA) added Supraglottic Airways (SGA) to the approved inventory list and indicated uses. Since implementation, SLOEMSA have found instances where an SGA would have been indicated, however the paramedic opted to use a Basic Life Support (BLS) airway. This trend has also been discussed in the Quality Improvement Workgroup.

Following these discussions and SLOEMSA retrospective review of patient care reports, **SLOEMSA is strongly recommending that providers consider placement of the County's approved SGA or an endotracheal tube (ET Tube) after establishing a BLS airway (ie as a follow-up step) for patients with ongoing respiratory compromise.** To assist with this, below are listed further definitions on indications for SGAs and ET Tubes:

- **Respiratory Compromise** is defined as a patient experiencing any of the following:
 - o Suppressed Respiratory Drive (Respiratory rate \leq 6 breaths per minute).
 - o Persistently inadequate/inconsistent oxygen saturation or end tidal CO₂ with a GCS $<$ 8.
 - o Respiratory Failure/Arrest.
 - o Cardiac Arrest.

- **ROSC patients requiring airway stabilization:**
 - o Typically, patients who have experienced Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC) will still have a need for a definitive airway, which would include a Supraglottic Airway or Endotracheal Tube.

For any further questions, please contact SLOEMSA EMS Coordinator David Goss at dgoss@co.slo.ca.us or SLOEMSA Medical Director Bill Mulkerin at wmulkerin@co.slo.ca.us.