



TO: EMS System Participants

FROM: Humberto Ochoa, Medical Director *HO*

DATE: July 27, 2011

SUBJECT: Extension of Needle Cricothyrotomy Kit Expiration Dates

In anticipation of the April 1, 2012 implementation of our new treatment protocols which will not include the use of needle cricothyrotomy, I am extending the expiration dates of any cricothyrotomy kits currently in stock until that date. This will allow you to remove these kits from your inventories with less waste.

The removal of needle cricothyrotomy from our treatment protocols is based on our own experience and on the articles and comments below:

- Accuracy of surface landmark identification for cannula cricothyroidotomy.
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20645953>
- Out-of-hospital airway management in the United States.
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21288624>
- Precautions required for needle cricothyroidotomy.
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20167405>
- Needle cricothyroidotomy.
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17300309>