



DT: 02/27/2015

TO: ALL EMS PROVIDERS

FR: Office of the EMS System Medical Director

RE: C-collars in intubated patients

The practice of placing a Cervical Collar on a patient merely to assist in minimizing head movement after securing an advanced airway (ET tube or Combitube®) is no longer acceptable clinical best practice. There is a growing body of medical literature that documents the unintended, deleterious effects that C-collars may cause on intra-cranial pressure (ICP) and cerebral perfusion pressures (CPP) through their compression of the Jugular Venous system. Traditional methods of securing advanced airways are still acceptable and include, but are not limited to: tube tamer, tape, and taping patient's forehead to cot/board to minimize movement.

*Effective immediately, Medical Cardiac Arrest patients should no longer have C-collars placed prophylactically without any evidence to suggest possible Cervical Spine injury in an effort to minimize head movement post-advanced airway placement.*

As always, do not hesitate to contact myself or Dr. Ruthstrom with any questions/concerns via phone or email.

Ryan C. Jacobsen MD, EMT-P

JOCO EMS System Medical Director

Jacob Ruthstrom MD

Deputy Medical Director