

## **Chester County EMS Council, Inc.**

### **EMS Treatment Protocols - Introduction**

Effective July 1, 2013, the Chester County EMS Council, Inc. has adopted the revised Pennsylvania Statewide BLS and ALS protocols in their entirety, with the following regional variances:

- The Chester County EMS Council, Inc. has adopted BLS Guideline #123 “EMS Vehicle Operations/Safety” as a regional protocol.
- Effective 7/1/2013, the Chester County EMS Council, Inc. does adopt ALS Protocol # 4002 “Sedation-Assisted Intubation”. As such, ALS level EMS agencies may now carry Etomidate as an optional medication.
- Activated charcoal is an optional medication for both BLS and ALS agencies.

The following region specific considerations when applying the ALS protocols are applicable at the discretion of the respective EMS agency medical director:

- Agencies may utilize any PA approved device (i.e. over-needle catheter, Nu-Trake™) to facilitate cricothyrotomy/trans-tracheal jet insufflation. This equipment/process is optional.
- An NG/OG tube may be placed as needed for gastric decompression (generally during positive pressure ventilation) without a medical command order.
- Phlebotomy is an agency specific optional ALS skill. The EMS agency medical director should consider local receiving facility policies regarding pre-hospital blood utilization in determining if the skill is approved and which specific blood tubes should be carried and drawn..

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