



October 5, 2012

Dear Agency Administrator:

At the September Denver Metro EMS Medical Directors (DMEMSMD) the results of an informal survey on percutaneous cricothyrotomy were discussed. The following is a brief overview of the results and the recommendations passed as a result.

First, many medical directors reported a small number of percutaneous cricothyrotomy being performed in the field. While this was an informal poll and there may be additional procedures that were performed and not reported, this reiterated that the technique is a high risk procedure with a high benefit.

Another result that was obvious was the need for additional training. Many medical directors felt that due to the numerous steps associated with many of the packaged products, a re-familiarization would be beneficial for field providers.

As a result of these findings, the group is recommending that field providers do a specific training every two (2) years on percutaneous cricothyrotomy. At this time, the medical directors do not feel there is a need for substantive changes to the protocol but we will continue to monitor this as time passes and allows for a new survey.

Please do not hesitate to contact your medical director should you have questions or concerns in regards to this new recommendation.