

BOARD:
Elizabeth M. Hagood
Chairman
Mark B. Kent
Vice Chairman
L. Michael Blackmon
Secretary



C. Earl Hunter, Commissioner

Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment.

BOARD:
Edwin H. Cooper, III

Carl L. Brazell

Steven G. Kisner

Coleman F. Buckhouse, MD

Memo

To: All EMS Providers
From: Alonzo W. Smith
Date: October 10, 2005
Re: Pediatric Intubation

The State Child Fatality Review Committee has identified a training issue within the EMS system of care for our pediatric citizens. While reviewing the deaths of pediatric patients across the state, it became evident that several of these patients were received by the emergency departments from EMS providers with an inappropriately sized intubation tube. Oftentimes, the ET tubes were too small for the airway resulting in less than optimal oxygenation. While the deaths of these children were not the direct result of the improperly sized tube, this error did not help matters.

It is therefore directed by this office that all personnel responsible for intubation be provided supplemental education in the proper sizing of pediatric intubation tubes. This should be accomplished through in-service training programs, initial and refresher EMT courses, regional EMS offices, and specialty pediatric training courses.