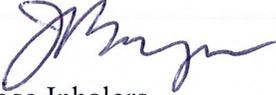


July 27, 2015

To: See Distribution
From: Joseph Barger, MD, EMS Medical Director 
Subj: Fireline Paramedic Use of Albuterol Metered Dose Inhalers

I have been requested to authorize use of Albuterol metered dose inhalers (MDI) with spacer in the setting of care administered by Fireline paramedics, understanding that the use of nebulizers is problematic, if not impossible, in the setting that Fireline paramedics are deployed.

Because we do not have a treatment guideline currently established for use of Albuterol MDI, I am issuing the following addendum to Guideline G13 (Respiratory Distress) for use by Fireline paramedics only:

For treatment of asthma or COPD in the Fireline setting, Albuterol metered dose inhaler (MDI) with spacer may be substituted for nebulized Albuterol. For significant respiratory distress, the starting dose is 2-4 puffs every 20 minutes to a total limit of 12 puffs in the first hour. For wheezing without significant distress, the dose is 2 puffs every 2-3 hours.

Patients with significant distress who do not improve initially should be transported and treated in a higher-level medical setting.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Distribution: Ben Smith, Contra Costa County FPD
Jack Clapp, Rodeo-Hercules Fire
David Gibson, El Cerrito Fire
Greg Sekera, Pinole Fire
Andy Swartzell, San Ramon Valley FPD
Jon Michaelson, San Ramon Valley FPD
Jerry Lee, Moraga-Orinda Fire

