

Timbrook Public Safety Center
231 East Piccadilly Street, Ste. 330
Winchester, VA 22601

Telephone: (540) 662-2298
FAX: (540) 542-1318
Website: www.winchesterva.gov

TO: All Fire Department Personnel

FROM: Eddie McClellan, Deputy Chief
C. Chris Turnbull, Operational Medical Director

RE: Nasal Capnography

Date: June 11, 2014

INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN IB-14029

The department is proud of the high level of EMS care that our personnel provide on a daily basis. Six years ago we purchased LP12's that are capable of obtaining capnography readings. Up until recently, few personnel were taking advantage of this tool with their patient assessments. Personnel have started to routinely use the capnography nasal cannula for any patient that is receiving oxygen via nasal cannula.

Although this has helped increase the use of this tool for patients experiencing respiratory emergencies, it is not efficient use of supplies to apply the capnography nasal cannula to patients that are being placed on oxygen for comfort measures with no respiratory distress. The cost of capnography nasal cannulas is significantly higher than the standard nasal cannula. Therefore, personnel shall only use the capnography nasal cannula for administering oxygen via nasal cannula for assessment, monitoring, and documentation of the respiratory status of the non-intubated patient experiencing respiratory distress.

Oxygen that is delivered for comfort measures only shall use a regular nasal cannula with tubing.

If you have any questions, please contact me.