



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY
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January 4, 2021

TO: Distribution

VIA E-MAIL

FROM: Marianne Gausche-Hill, MD
Medical Director, EMS Agency

SUBJECT: **EMS USE OF OXYGEN (DIRECTIVE #7)**

Given the acute need to conserve oxygen, **effective immediately**, EMS should only administer supplemental oxygen to patients with oxygen saturation below 90%. For patients with hypoxia (O₂ saturation <90%), the minimum amount of oxygen necessary to maintain the oxygen saturation at or just above 90% shall be administered. An oxygen saturation of 90% is sufficient to maintain normal tissue perfusion in most patients.

Considerations for exceptions:

- Oxygen for the purposes of medication administration and CPAP may be used when needed. Per TP 1245, these interventions should be limited to those patients in severe respiratory distress.
- Patients requiring positive-pressure ventilation due to respiratory failure should continue to receive 100% oxygen.
- Titrated oxygen with a higher target of 94% is recommended for the following specific conditions: carbon monoxide poisoning, suspected pneumothorax, shock, traumatic brain injury.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at (562) 378-1600 or MGausche-Hill@dhs.lacounty.gov.

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