



INLAND COUNTIES EMERGENCY MEDICAL AGENCY POLICY AND PROTOCOL MANUAL

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Point of Care Ultrasound Local Optional Scope of practice (Approved Providers Only)

I. PURPOSE

To establish authority and parameters for the prehospital use of Prehospital Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) as part of a trial study.

II. INCLUSION CRITERIA

Paramedic (EMT-P) application of POCUS should be considered to help guide treatment and destination decisions during any of the following conditions:

- eFAST examination performed in a multi-system trauma patient to assess for internal hemorrhage and evaluate for pneumothorax.
- Cardiac POCUS during cardiac arrest, particularly early in patients presenting in PEA, to assess for organized cardiac motion and assist in identifying potentially reversible causes of cardiac arrest.
- Assessment of carotid blood flow and pulsation during active CPR to help confirm pulselessness and support decisions regarding termination of resuscitative efforts.
- As an adjunct to facilitate placement of peripheral venous access.
- Transtracheal POCUS may be used as an adjunct to confirm endotracheal tube placement; however, initial confirmation must rely on direct visualization of the tube passing through the vocal cords and assessment of bilateral breath sounds. Continuous monitoring of breath sounds and ETCO₂ should be maintained throughout resuscitation and transport.

III. CONTRAINDICATIONS

Any circumstance where application of POCUS, or interpretation of the findings may delay patient care or transportation to the emergency department.

IV. PROCEDURE

EMT-Ps must evaluate each patient to determine whether they meet criteria and indications for performing POCUS. This assessment is not intended to replace clinical judgement or currently employed techniques for treatment. It is intended to augment the paramedic's diagnostic tools and verify or eliminate differential diagnoses considered.

Only EMT-Ps meeting the following criteria may utilize the POCUS:

- May only use the Butterfly IQ handheld ultrasound device approved for use.
- Be authorized by an EMS provider who has purchased the equipment and supplies.

- Has received training in use of the Butterfly IQ handheld ultrasound device and meets all requirements for use.

V. DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

- ICEMA requirements for documentation and collection and submission of EMS data must be followed.
- Utilization of prehospital ultrasound will be documented in the procedures section of the patient care record.
- EMS crews shall document the patient complaint, exam type and findings for QI review.
- All images captured by POCUS must be archived in the "ICEMA Butterfly Network cloud" for review.

VI. QUALITY ASSURANCE

- EMS Coordinators for participating agencies will need to develop a workflow that allows the following things to occur in order:
 - Field crew uploads image/s to the cloud.
 - Physician review of the images is completed with their comments and feedback added to the cloud image.
 - EMS Coordinator reviews the physician comments / feedback.
 - EMS Coordinator completes the CQI Review for the call in Image Trend.
- EMS Coordinators shall review 100% of calls and participate with quarterly scheduled case review sessions.
- Participating agencies will maintain internal records for individual performing paramedics along with the type of exam, exam findings of concern and whether or not these were validated on physician review.