



INLAND COUNTIES EMERGENCY MEDICAL AGENCY POLICY AND PROTOCOL MANUAL

Reference No. 10040
Effective Date: 02/20/25
Supersedes: 05/01/24
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PARAMEDIC PREHOSPITAL UTILIZATION OF ULTRASOUND (ADMINISTRATIVE)

I. PURPOSE

Paramedics approved by ICEMA may, while on duty with a participating agency, use agency provided portable ultrasound devices as an additional means of patient assessment. Ultrasound exams will be focused on and limited to identification of findings of concern as specified.

II. INCLUSION CRITERIA

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

- Suspected Tension Pneumothorax as a result of blunt or penetrating traumatic injury.
 - Absent or decreased breath sounds, and
 - Signs of hemodynamic compromise (shock).
- Right upper abdominal quadrant for detection of intra-abdominal bleeding as a result of blunt or penetrating trauma to the chest and/or abdomen.
- Persistent cardiac arrest with fine ventricular fibrillation, asystole, or PEA.

III. CONTRAINDICATIONS

Any circumstance where application of POCUS, or interpretation of the findings of concern 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 a participating 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 “cloud” for review.

VI. QUALITY ASSURANCE

The EMS Coordinator for participating agencies shall utilize ICEMA Image Trend and 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.