



HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

To: All Officers and Members
From: Justin Wells, Assistant Chief
Through: Robert I. Garcia, Assistant Fire Chief
Subject: Patient Care Protocol Update
Date: April 9, 2020

Mayor
Sylvester Turner

City Council

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At-Large 5
Sallie Alcorn

Controller,
Chris Brown

To avoid unnecessary droplet exposure during medical procedures, the following amendment to the Patient Care Protocol and Guidelines shall be enacted:

For ALL patients

- 1) All members shall withhold nebulized medications (albuterol, ipratropium bromide and epinephrine). If you feel the patient's condition requires nebulized medication, contact on-line medical control for approval.
- 2) If supplemental oxygen is required as per Table 7-8 Oxygen Therapy Guideline (in Patient Care Protocols), a surgical mask shall be applied over the nasal cannula or nonrebreather mask.
- 3) ALS members should consider early administration of intramuscular epinephrine for patients with pending respiratory failure and a history of asthma and/or COPD.
 - a) Contact medical control prior to administering intramuscular epinephrine for patients older than 50 years of age or with a history prior myocardial infarction.
- 4) ALS members should consider early administration of intravenous magnesium sulfate for patients in respiratory distress with a history of asthma.
- 5) ALS members shall withhold methylprednisolone (Solu-Medrol) and dexamethasone (Decadron) for respiratory complaints unless otherwise directed by on-line medical control.

Any questions regarding this order will be address through the chain of command.

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