

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

11120 INTERNATIONAL DR., SUITE 200
RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670
(916) 322-4336 FAX (916) 324-2875



DATE: March 15, 2024

TO: **Local EMS Administrators**

FROM: Hernando Garzon, MD
Chief Medical Officer

SUBJECT: Update: EMS Personnel Scope of Practice – Supraglottic Airways and Pediatric patients

The purpose of this memo is to provide clarification and interpretation regarding medical terminology used for Supraglottic Airway Devices (SADs), and Emergency Medical Services Authority's (EMSA) oversight of pediatric airway management.

Both the medical terminology for these medical devices and the management of pediatric airways have undergone significant changes in the last 10-15 years, resulting in outdated terminology and regulations that do not match current practice or recommendations. For the purposes of EMSA regulations, EMSA considers perilaryngeal airway adjuncts or devices to be a subset of SADs.

The Emergency Medical Directors Association of California (EMDAC) recommends that SAD use on pediatric patients be approved as a Local Optional Scope of Practice (LOSOP). However, this recommendation has not been incorporated into EMSA regulations. Until incorporated, the following current regulations apply.

Paramedic and Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) personnel may use SADs as part of their basic scope of practice regardless of age, pursuant to §§ 100146 and 100106, respectively. EMSA has no role in approving paramedic or AEMT LOSOPs for SAD use in any population. Effective immediately, all EMSA-approved LOSOPs for paramedic or AEMT use of SADs are terminated due to inconsistency with regulations. Paramedics and AEMTs utilizing pediatric SADs are deemed authorized to do so under their basic scope of practice.

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) personnel may only use SADs as part of a LEMSA director approved optional skills pursuant the training and testing requirements specified in § 100064.

Current EMDAC recommendations for the pediatric use of SADs can be incorporated into EMSA regulations when opened through the rule making

process for review and updates.

EMDAC has defined quality metrics and system reporting guidelines for LEMSAs who use SADs in the paramedic SOPs. This document can be found on the [EMDAC](#) web site.

If you have additional questions, please email scopeofpractice@emsa.ca.gov.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H. Garzon, M.D." in a cursive style.

Hernando Garzon, MD
Chief Medical Officer, EMSA