



McLean County Area EMS System

1609 Northbrook Suite 8
Normal, IL 61761

Phone: (309) 827-4348
Fax: (309) 808-4235

MEMORANDUM

To: ALS Agencies

From: Dylan Ferguson, BS, NRP, CHEP, LI
Director

Date: 04/03/2018

Subject: Intubation with King Vision System

In reviewing patient care reports and in speaking with hospitals, and EMS providers we are starting to notice a trend that is slightly concerning.

We are noticing an increase in the instances of too small an ET tube being passed in patients, particularly with services utilizing the King Vision System. It seems that providers are defaulting to a 6.0 ET tube whenever they are using the King Vision System, because that is what fits the best in the channel.

In some patients the usage of a 6.0 tube may be appropriate because they may be a difficult intubation, or perhaps on visualization the intermediate or paramedic makes a judgement that a 6.0 is the biggest that they will get to pass.

However, barring a circumstance similar to those discussed above we should not be defaulting to an undersized tube in the name of convenience.

As a reminder the **GENERAL** sized ET tube for an adult is between 7.0-9.0. Adult males is usually 7.5-9.0, Adult females is generally 7.0-8.0. A good default tube size for either an adult male or female is 7.5.

When we deliver a patient, who has an undersized tube, then that patient has to be extubated and reintubated at the hospital.

If a 6.0 is the largest you can pass then of course that is fine, as a smaller patent airway is better than no airway at all. However, we just ask you to be cognizant of your tube size selection when possible.

If you have any questions please contact us in the office.