Equipment Failure (≥ PL1)

Clinical Indications:

1. Define a process for tracking, reporting, and evaluation of patient care equipment that has failed to function as it was intended while managing a patient.

Notes:

1. This includes single patient use disposables, in addition to reusable or affixed equipment.

Contraindications:

1. None

Procedure:

1. To minimize the risk of equipment failure each agency shall maintain a daily equipment check sheet and periodically test biomedical equipment in accordance with manufacturer recommendations. This does not apply to sterile/clean packaged single patient use items. These type items must be inspected and/or tested prior to patient application.
2. If there is a failure of equipment (including single patient use disposables) during patient care which is deemed essential to the ongoing care of the patient immediately contact the EMS communications center, advise them of the failure, and have the nearest appropriate resource dispatched. This may be a supervisor, an ambulance, or some other resource, depending upon patient need and availability of additional equipment (including single patient use disposables) readily available on scene.
3. Based on the condition of the patient request that the resource respond either emergency (Code 3) or non-emergency (Code 1). The decision to await the arrival of replacement equipment is at the discretion of the on-scene transport provider in charge and dependent upon how essential the equipment is to the ongoing management and/or monitoring of the patient.
4. Closely monitor and treat the patient to the best of your ability with the remaining functional equipment and supplies.
5. While it is appropriate to notify supervisory personnel of the failure care and transport should not be delayed while awaiting the arrival of a supervisor (unless the supervisor is responding as the nearest resource based on #2 above).
6. All equipment (including single patient use disposables) associated with the failure shall be gathered and secured for inspection by each responsible department/organization. This includes all cables, electrodes, tubing, masks, or any other equipment associated with the failure. This equipment shall not be utilized in patient care activity until the Office of the Medical Director has received documentation that the equipment was evaluated by the manufacturer or their approved service agent. Accessories such as those mentioned above should be left attached to the failed equipment in the manner that they were attached at the time failure was noted. Contaminated equipment or failed single patient use disposable items shall be secured in an appropriate biological container (sealed bag or sharps shuttle).
7. An **Equipment Failure Report Form** shall be completed by the provider and forwarded to the Office of the Medical Director and the Organization's designated PI Officer as soon as practical after the failure. **In all cases, this report shall be completed prior to the end of the provider's tour of duty**.
8. This procedure should be applied in addition to any process established by a System organization and is not considered a substitute for the organizational reporting requirements.