



Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

Division of Operations

Emergency Medical and Integrated Healthcare Services

Office of Medical Oversight Clinical Practice Guideline

Title:	Continuous ETCO₂ Monitoring for Advanced Airways	Number:	2022 – 02
Date:	April 12, 2022		
Issued by:	Roger M. Stone MD, MS – MCFRS Medical Director		
Purpose:	To require action when the ETCO ₂ waveform is lost while monitoring patients with an advanced airway		
Target Patient Population:	All patients with an advanced airway under the care of MCFRS ALS Clinicians		
Guideline:	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>This CPG replaces and rescinds CPG 2021-04, Continuous ETCO₂ Monitoring for Intubated Patients</u></p> <p>The Maryland Medical Protocol requires continuous ETCO₂ monitoring for all intubated patients but does not explicitly state actions that must be taken when ETCO₂ waveform is lost.</p> <p><u>Continuous waveform ETCO₂ monitoring is required for all patients with an advanced airway (extraglottic or endotracheal tube).</u></p> <p>Absence of an ETCO₂ reading and/or waveform at any time should be an immediate cause for rapid attention and action. Clinicians must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assume that the advanced airway is not placed correctly until proven otherwise, and• Rapidly troubleshoot by visualizing the glottis with video laryngoscopy, suctioning, replacing the filterline sensor, or other actions based on clinical presentation and clinician judgment. <p>If unable to reestablish ETCO₂ values and without objective, verifiable proof that the advanced airway is placed correctly, <u>clinicians must remove the tube.</u></p> <p>Troubleshooting steps and re-verification evidence must be thoroughly documented in the patient care report.</p> <p>The systemwide goal for unrecognized misplaced advanced airways, either by improper initial placement or by dislodgement is zero.</p>		