

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Jewel Mullen, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A.  
Commissioner



Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor  
Nancy Wyman  
Lt. Governor

Date: 05/01/2014

To: All EMS agencies/All Sponsor Hospitals

From: Raphael M. Barishansky, MPH, MS, CPM  
Director, Office of Emergency Medical Services

Richard Kamin, MD, FACEP  
Medical Director, Office of Emergency Medical Services

Re: Use of non-invasive carbon monoxide monitoring

This communication is to clarify that the use of non-invasive carbon monoxide monitoring (most commonly performed via the Masimo Rad-57 device) is not within the scope of practice of emergency medical responders or technicians (EMRs or EMTs.) Connecticut has, with limited modification, adopted the National EMS Scope of Practice Model<sup>1</sup> and the use of this medical device is not contained therein. Furthermore, the physician medical directors of the Connecticut EMS Medical Advisory Committee (CEMSMAC) concluded that the use of this device should not be included in Connecticut-specific additions to the EMS scope of practice.

Sponsor hospitals may permit their paramedic level providers to continue to use this medical device "as indicated by patient need when consistent with training and ability and protocols."<sup>2</sup>

If an EMS agency is of the opinion that it is medically necessary to allow EMTs and/or EMRs to utilize non-invasive carbon monoxide assessment and monitoring, they may (via their sponsor hospital) petition the CEMSMAC and the Connecticut Department of Public Health to expand the EMS scope of practice.<sup>3</sup> An explanation of this process and template for submission may be found under the CEMSMAC heading on the Committees and Workgroups Page of the OEMS website at <http://www.ct.gov/dph/ems>.

Persons not licensed as healthcare providers are reminded that Section 20-9 of the Connecticut General Statutes, with certain exceptions, prohibits the practice of medicine without a license. The use of non-invasive carbon monoxide monitoring to make medical treatment or transportation decisions may constitute the practice of medicine.

EMS agencies should contact their regional EMS coordinator with any questions or if they require additional assistance.

<sup>1</sup> "Changes in the EMS Certification and Education System," Connecticut Law Journal Nov. 6, 2012: 2C-7C

<sup>2</sup> Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Sec. 19a-179-12(b)

<sup>3</sup> C.G.S. Sec. 19a-179a



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