



**System Medical Advisory  
September 12, 2018**

**Lucas Device Deployment and Continued System Use**

On February 7, 2017 the OMD issued Medical Directive 17-01 which introduced new deployment guidelines for the LUCAS Device: ***Effective 7:00 am on Wednesday, February 8, 2017, the LUCAS device will be applied only when one of a very small list of special circumstances exists. Updates to COG Clinical Procedures 19 and 41 outline these special circumstances and will be released today for immediate implementation. Essentially, attempts to place the LUCAS device on a patient will only occur when the patient is being moved for transport, being transported to the hospital, or when the available manpower to effectively implement resuscitation efforts is limited. LUCAS devices will remain on EMS District Command and DMO response vehicles as well as ESDs with limited available manpower.***

The current Patient Safety COG U-03 and, the new Clinical Standard CS-05 both state: ***Agencies should maintain all medical equipment in accordance with manufacturer’s recommendations including: periodic testing, calibrations and/or recertifying.***

Over the past several years the OMD has actively evaluated our System’s use of a mechanical CPR device and its incorporation into our “pit crew” approach to CPR. The OMD also took into account the need for patient and provider/responder safety during CPR, patient movement and patient transport. Our article describing the results of this review and titled “Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest outcomes with ‘pit crew’ resuscitation and scripted initiation of mechanical CPR” has been accepted for publication in [The American Journal of Emergency Medicine](#). The conclusion of this study indicated: ***In this EMS system with a standardized, “pit crew” approach to OHCA that prioritized initial high-quality resuscitative efforts and scripted the sequence for initiating mechanical CPR, use of mechanical CPR was associated with decreased ROSC and decreased survival to discharge.***

The EMS Department has indicated that in response to these results, the requirements for ongoing maintenance costs of these devices, and their current deployment responsibilities; they have requested the OMD to reconsider the current deployment and use of these devices in the System.

The OMD has concluded that there is still a role for the device in the System especially for FROs that already own and appropriately maintain these devices essentially for manpower supplementation during minimal staffing for “pit crew” operations. Therefore, LUCAS devices meeting the requirements of CS-05 and deployed per the LUCAS Device Pearl of the Cardiac Arrest COG, will remain available for use in the System **however**; will no longer be required for deployment on EMS Department Command or DMO response vehicles. This Medical Advisory and the revised deployment of the LUCAS Devices for the EMS Department are effective on **October 01, 2018**.

APPROVED

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