Central California EMS Agency Continuous Quality Improvement Bullet Points:

September and October, 2004

Airway Issue:

- Unprotected and/or unstable airways, especially in trauma patients, need to be delivered to definitive care as soon as possible. Attempts to place advanced airway devices (RSI/ETT/Combitubes), should cease once the ambulance/helicopter has arrived at the hospital. Use BLS airway skills to transfer patients to the Emergency Department staff.

Midazolam Administration - Seizures:

- When treating a seizure patient, don’t forget to administer the 2nd dose of IV Midazolam (Versed) if seizures continue longer than 10 minutes, and remember to obtain an accuchek.

Narcan Administration:

- When treating a suspected narcotic overdose, don’t forget the 2nd dose of IN Naloxone (Narcan), after 5 minutes, if the patient has shown no response in the respirations (rate is greater than 8).

Glucagon Administration:

- When treating altered mental status patients with Glucagon, don’t forget to check and document any change in GCS and repeat the accuchek. Also, if you can easily obtain an IV, or obtain one after Glucagon administration, D50 should still be administered if the patient remains altered with the repeat accuchek below 80.

- Reminder that attempts to obtain an IV for the administration of Dextrose should occur before the administration of Glucagon. Glucagon should only be administered if attempts at an IV are unsuccessful.

12-Lead ECG:

- The application of the 12-Lead ECG is for all patients that are being treated following the coronary ischemic chest discomfort protocol.

Trauma:

- Patients with a history of blunt trauma with a trauma score of 14 or less need to be placed in spinal immobilization.

- Patients with injuries distracting from distinguishing spinal pain (e.g., pelvic fracture, multisystem trauma, crush injury to hands or feet, long bone fracture proximal to the knee/elbow, or to the humerus/femur) need to be placed in spinal immobilization.

- On-scene time must be less than 10 minutes unless multiple patients or prolonged extrication complicated the incident. Document on Prehospital Care Report any delays at scene.