



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive



<b>CLINICAL DIRECTIVE 08 /2011</b>
<b>FROM: Medical Director</b>
<b>TO: Paramedics; Advanced Paramedics;</b>
<b>SUBJECT: Stabilisation of endotracheal tubes and supraglottic airways using cervical collars</b>  The practice of placing a patient with an advanced airway in a cervical collar solely for the purpose of stabilising an advanced airway adjunct during patient movement of a <b>non traumatic</b> cardiac arrest patient should not be used. Cervical collars should only be used for cervical spine immobilisation in suspected spinal injury as per relevant CPG.
<b>RATIONALE:</b>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Cervical collars may impede venous return from the cerebral circulation and thereby can cause a relative raise in intracranial pressure;</li><li>2. Cervical collars might lead receiving hospital staff to assume the patient may have a cervical spine injury when in fact they do not, possibly complicating care.</li><li>3. There are a number of devices in use to reduce movement of endotracheal tubes and other advanced airways. These should form the mainstay of stabilising advanced airways.</li></ol>
<b>EFFECTIVE FROM:</b> August 12 <sup>th</sup> 2011
<b>EFFECTIVE TO:</b> Indefinite
<b>QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ON THIS DIRECTIVE:</b> Education and Competency Assurance Team

Clinical Directives are formulated by the National Ambulance Service Medical Directorate, the National Ambulance Service Education and Competency Assurance Team, the Dublin Fire Brigade Medical Director, the Dublin Fire Brigade EMS Support Team and the Irish Coast Guard Chief Crewman (Standards). Clinical Directives apply to all relevant staff in the HSE National Ambulance Service, Dublin Fire Brigade and Irish Coast Guard helicopter winch-crew.

Seirbhís Náisiúnta Otharchairr  
Teach Dara, Ascaill an Crann Teile, Páirc na Mílaoise, Nás na Rí, Co. Chill Dara

National Ambulance Service  
Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare  
Tel: 045 882592 Fax: 1890 252 125