



**KITTITAS COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION**

Office of the:
MEDICAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR EMS COORDINATOR EMS & TRAUMA CARE COUNCIL

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

TO: Kittitas County EMS Agency Chiefs and Supervisors
 Kittitas County EMS Personnel (notified by agency)

FR: Jackson S. Horsley, MD
 Medical Program Director

RE: **V-VAC SUCTION UNITS & OTHER SIMILAR DEVICES**

DATE: August 14, 2006

In the interest of patient care during airway management procedures, I am requiring that the protective caps (red or otherwise colored) on the Laerdal V-VAC Manual Suction Units be removed once they are placed on the licensed aid units, ambulance units, or in personnel EMS kits.

The protective cap has the potential to cause an airway obstruction and/or delay in airway management if it is inadvertently left on the unit when suction is attempted.

This unit is not a sterile piece of equipment and the protective cap does not maintain sterilization of the suction tip. However, I recommend the unit is kept in an unused zip lock type bag until use to protect the suction unit tip from unnecessary contamination. As a safe-guard against leakage, the used suction unit and cartridge, even if removed from unit, should be replaced in the zip lock bag until proper disposal of cartridge and bag, and proper cleaning of V-VAC handle can be performed.

It is possible that other like units on the market have a similar potential risk associated with them. I advise that individual agencies assess the risk of the equipment used by their agency and take appropriate action.

Agency Supervisors are responsible for making sure their EMS Personnel are informed of new and updated Regional Patient Care Procedures, County Operating Procedures, and MPD Standard Operating Procedures as soon as possible. New and updated procedures are also incorporated into initial and ongoing training at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you for your cooperation!