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TO: EMS System Medical Directors
EMS System Coordinators

FROM: Jason Kegg, MD, FAAEM, FACEP, CHSE
IDPH EMS Medical Director

Ashley Thoele, MSN, MBA, RN
Division Chief, EMS and Highway Safety

DATE: July 6, 2022

RE: Pre-hospital use of Anti-Choking Devices

IDPH has received requests for the use of suction anti-choking devices by EMS Provides thru their EMS System to be included as new pieces of equipment on their EMS vehicles.

In an effort to consistently provide safe, evidence-based, and data driven care to the people of Illinois, we rely on equipment that have stood the rigors of research and proven benefit including equipment approved by the FDA.

At this time, these devices (ex. LifeVac, DeCHOKER, etc.) **are not approved for use by the FDA or by IDPH** and if used, could delay treatments that have been shown to be effective. In addition, this device may cause serious injuries. We strive to operate based upon evidence, and not anecdote, and **any such device shall not be stocked, deployed, or utilized** on any emergency service vehicles licensed and operating with IDPH approved protocols.

We are happy to answer any questions or speak to you regarding these issues.

Thank you for all that you do every day to care for the people of Illinois!

Cc: Leslee Stein-Spencer, IDPH Senior EMS Advisor
IDPH Regional EMS System Coordinators