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# State of New Hampshire

## Department of Safety

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## New Hampshire EMS Information Bulletin 9

**DATE:** December 8, 2009

**SUBJECT:** KING-LT-D Airways

**TO:** New Hampshire EMS Providers, EMS Unit Leaders, Medical Directors and EMS Hospital Coordinators, The NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board, The NH Medical Control Board

**FROM:** Douglas McVicar, MD, Chair, NH EMS Medical Control Board

New Hampshire providers may be aware of questions raised by the US FDA about the approval status and marketing of the King LT(S)-D™ Oropharyngeal Airway.

King Systems Corporation, which markets this device, and the FDA are working to resolve the questions raised. While the NH Bureau of EMS has been monitoring, and continues to monitor this evolving discussion, it is critically important that we do not lose track of our first responsibility – patient care.

Of all EMS patient care interventions, airway comes first. The 2009-2010 NH Patient Care Protocols provide excellent, carefully researched airway procedures that have been successfully used for years within the framework established in New Hampshire. Providers **MUST NOT** deny patients the airways they need.

NH Providers should continue to practice under protocol with the devices they have trained on, notwithstanding the current language of Protocol 5.5 *Blind Insertion Airway* that says “This protocol is intended for FDA-approved, commercial, blind airway devices”. The NH Bureau of EMS and the EMS Medical Control Board will follow this issue, and in the future may make appropriate changes, if indicated. But for now, protocols have not changed, so until further notice any concerns about the meaning of terms such as “FDA approved” should not change any provider's practice of airway management, including use of the King LT-D airway.

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