

**MEHLVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
GUIDELINES FOR PREHOSPITAL EMERGENCY CARE**

SUBJECT: 1000.18

ORIGINAL ISSUE 01/15

**PEDIATRICS:
PEDIATRIC RESPIRATORY
DISTRESS IN PATIENTS ON
VENTILATORY SUPPORT**

For a patient receiving invasive ventilation via a ventilator, assess the patient to determine possible cause of respiratory distress by removing the patient from the ventilator and assisting ventilations with a bag-valve mask via the tracheostomy tube. Use the following steps to help determine the cause:

- If unable to ventilate the patient, there is significant resistance or there is poor air entry with bag-valve mask ventilation, the problem is likely due to the tracheostomy tube. Refer to Protocol 1000.17 Pediatric Respiratory Distress in Patients with a Tracheostomy.
- If able to ventilate through the tracheostomy tube and the patient does not improve or the respiratory distress is still present, the problem is likely due to a medical problem.
- If patient improves and is easy to ventilate with bag-valve-mask assisted ventilation, the problem is likely due to the ventilator. Ask the parents or other caregivers to perform any procedure they have been taught to correct ventilator problems.