



CHICAGO FIRE DEPARTMENT BUREAU OF OPERATIONS



Operations Order: 25-001
March 25, 2025

SUBJECT: FINGERTIP PULSE OXIMETER

I. PURPOSE

This Order:

- A. Defines the Fingertip Pulse Oximeter;
- B. Defines guidelines for the appropriate use, care, storage, and replacement of the Fingertip Pulse Oximeter;
- C. Modifies the Chicago Fire Department (CFD) companies authorized to use the Fingertip Pulse Oximeter;
- D. Rescinds Operations Order 20-017, dated October 15, 2020; and
- E. Becomes effective immediately.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Chicago Fire Department (CFD) to provide the necessary medical equipment to assist in the proper assessment of patients. The Fingertip Pulse Oximeter is intended to be used as an adjunct during a complete patient assessment by CFD Basic Life Support (**BLS**) companies, in accordance with Region 11 EMS System policies and procedures. The device is not to be used for continuous monitoring or as a stand-alone assessment tool. **Advanced Life Support (ALS) companies are no longer authorized to use stand-alone Fingertip Pulse Oximeters** during patient care.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Fingertip Pulse Oximeter**: A portable, non-invasive, compact device used to determine the oxygen saturation of arterial hemoglobin (SpO₂), with pulse rate, of adult and pediatric patients.

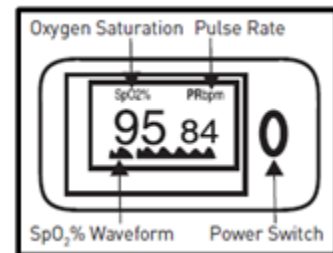


IV. PROCEDURE

- A. All **BLS** Companies have been issued one (1) Fingertip Pulse Oximeter.
- B. **ALS** companies are to use the pulse oximeter feature of their issued ALS Cardiac Monitor when needed.

V. OPERATIONAL USE OF THE FINGERTIP PULSE OXIMETER

- A. Press the power switch to turn on the oximeter. Each display will show the SpO₂ and Pulse Rate beats per minute (PRbpm).
- B. Place the clamp over the fingernail with the oximeter display on the same side as the fingernail.



NOTE: If unable to attain a reading from a patient who has nail polish or other modifications done to fingertips, the Pulse Oximeter may be applied to the earlobe as an alternative location to obtain a reading.



VI. CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF THE FINGERTIP PULSE OXIMETER

- A. Company Officers shall ensure the following daily inspection of the Fingertip Pulse Oximeter:
 - 1. The unit shall be powered ON during daily morning inspection and ensure the power indicator is sufficient for the shift. Replace the batteries if the low power indicator appears on the display. If necessary, contact EMS Logistics for replacement batteries.
 - 2. Clean the surface of the fingertip oximeter before and after each use with 70% isopropyl alcohol and allow to dry thoroughly. Do not pour or spray liquids onto the oximeter.
- B. The Fingertip Pulse Oximeter shall be stored in the company's oxygen bag pouch with the lanyard attached.
- C. Any damages or deficiencies noted with the Fingertip Pulse Oximeter during the daily inspection shall be reported immediately to the Company Officer.
- D. Any operational problems or issues with the Fingertip Pulse Oximeter shall be directed by the Company Officer to the EMS Logistics Division.

- E. Lost, stolen, or damaged Fingertip Pulse Oximeter shall be reported and documented in compliance with current Department policies and procedures and replaced through the EMS Logistics Division.

VII. RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Company Officers shall be held accountable for the daily inventory, inspection, and care of the Fingertip Pulse Oximeter.
- B. Chief Officers and Company Officers shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the provisions of this Order.
- C. Chief Officers and Company Officers shall conduct Company School to ensure that all members are aware of the provisions of this Order.
- D. It is the responsibility of all members to have a thorough knowledge of this Order.

By order of:



Marc Ferman
Deputy Fire Commissioner
Bureau of Operations

TO BE READ AT FOUR (4) ROLL CALLS AND POSTED

Distribution: A