

The Joint Royal Colleges Ambulance Liaison Committee has made every effort to ensure that the information, tables, drawings and diagrams contained in Clinical Practice Guidelines issued July 2006 is accurate at the time of publication. However, the JRCALC guidance is advisory and has been developed to assist healthcare professionals, together with patients, to make decisions about the management of the patient's health, including treatments. It is intended to support the decision-making process and is not a substitute for sound clinical judgement. Guidelines cannot always contain all the information necessary for determining appropriate care and cannot address all individual situations; therefore individuals using these guidelines must ensure they have the appropriate knowledge and skills to enable appropriate interpretation.

The committee does not guarantee, and accepts no legal liability of whatever nature arising from or connected to, the accuracy, reliability, currency or completeness of the content of these guidelines.

Users of the guidelines must always be aware that such innovations or alterations after the date of publication may not be incorporated in the content. As part of its commitment to defining national standards, the committee will periodically issue updates to the content and users should ensure they are using the most up-to-date version of the guidelines; <http://www.jrcalc.org.uk>

Although some modification of the guidelines may be required by individual ambulance services, and approved by relevant local clinical committees, to ensure they respond to the health requirements of the local community, the majority of the guidance is universally applicable to NHS ambulance services. Modification of the guidelines may also occur when undertaking research sanctioned by a research ethics committee.

Whilst these guidelines cover the full range of paramedic treatments available across the UK they will also provide a valuable tool for ambulance technicians and other pre-hospital care providers. Many of the assessment skills and general principles will remain the same. Those not qualified to Paramedic level must practise only within their level of training and competence.