# ****Office of Emergency Medical Services****

# ****DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH********COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS****

# ****Notice****

Massachusetts OEMS has learned of the following clinical advisory from the Michigan EMSC Office.

We wish to apprise you of this risk, of thermal burns to children, caused by leaving BVM's or NRB masks on a warming pad, for you to pass along to your personnel. These oxygen sources accelerated the chemical reactions within the warming pads resulting in dangerously high temperatures.

Please see the original advisory below. Thank you for your attention.

Hello all,

Here in Michigan, we had a very unfortunate set of events (a few years ago) where warming mattresses/blankets were used improperly and resulted in burns to children. The major event happened when an oxygen source was placed on the warming device. Placing a NRB or BVM on the mattress causes it to go above 160 degrees, almost instantly, resulting in burns. We wanted to be sure to bring this up immediately in this discussion.

The product used in Michigan was from Ready-Heat – Tech Trade. A formal statement was made to the FDA regarding the events. I realize you are asking about another brand/company product, but I wanted to be thorough! We all are trying to act to help prevent injuries to children, and when the opposite occurs it is devastating. We don’t want that to happen to anyone else!! All of the products were immediately removed from every agency and vehicle of course. I am including images of the product that was used.

With excellent education, these devices could be used safely - making the outcomes of the events here even more tragic.  Since pediatric transport is a relevantly infrequent event, and a very high stress situation – the chances of a provider not reading the instructions thoroughly, or forgetting all of the steps to ensure safe use is very likely.

If anyone has any other questions about our unfortunate experience, please do not hesitate to let me know.

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Respectfully,
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