

## Combitube & Combitube SA

Vermont EMS District 6 Clinical Protocol 2002-8.1 allows use of the Esophageal Tracheal Combitube by EMT-I and EMT-P personnel who have been trained and authorized in its use.

The Combitube comes in two sizes, the standard Combitube 41 F and the smaller Combitube 37 F SA (SA for Small Adult)

District 6 protocol does not address the more recently available Combitube SA, and there have been questions as to whether or not its use is authorized.

It is the position of the District 6 Medical Advisor that the Combitube SA is merely a differently sized unit rather than a completely different item, and that its use is authorized under the existing Combitube protocol. The differences between the Combitube and the Combitube SA are summarized below.

### Combitube

Patient size: Taller than 5 feet  
Proximal Balloon Volume: 100 ml  
Distal Balloon Volume: 5 - 15 ml

### Combitube SA

Patient Size: 4 to 6 feet in height\*  
Proximal Balloon Volume: 85 ml  
Distal Balloon Volume: 5 - 12 ml

\*The manufacturer suggests that Combitube SA be used for patients 4 to 5 1/2 feet tall, but studies have confirmed that use of the Combitube SA is appropriate in patients up to 6 feet tall.

Philip Brown DO  
Medical Advisor  
Vermont EMS District 6

