

Monterey County EMS System Policy



Protocol Number: R-1
Effective Date: 7/1/2019
Review Date: 6/30/2022

AIRWAY MANAGEMENT

BLS CARE

Routine Medical Care.

Manage the suspected airway obstruction following current AHA guidelines.

ALS CARE

Routine Medical Care. O₂ to maintain SpO₂ of \geq 94%.

The approved airway management procedure for the adult consists of endotracheal intubation or insertion of a supraglottic airway device.

An intubation or supraglottic airway attempt is defined as any time the endotracheal tube or supraglottic airway is placed past the patients' teeth.

No more than 2 attempts at endotracheal intubation (ETI) or supraglottic airway shall be made on any patient without base hospital physician approval.

All devices used to confirm tube placement must be documented on the PCR:

- Capnography/capnometry
 - Describe waveform (e.g., box, shark fin, straight line, bumpy line, etc.)
 - Specify capnometry number in mmHg (e.g., 15 mmHg)
- Colorimetric EtCO₂ device
 - Include the color of the litmus paper
- Visualization, auscultation, chest rise

ALS and BLS personnel must confirm tube placement (ET or supraglottic airway) with capnography/capnometry or a colorimetric EtCO₂ device (if no capnography/capnometry available), physical assessment (auscultation, observation of chest rise, visualization of the tube passing through the cords, etc.).

- If there is any doubt as to proper placement of the endotracheal tube, visualize the pharynx and vocal cords with laryngoscope, and use capnography waveform to make decision. If still in doubt, suction the patient, deflate the cuff remove the endotracheal tube and replace with a supraglottic airway. Be prepared – removal of an ET tube may induce vomiting. Ventilate between attempts with 100% oxygen.

Defer advanced airway insertion rather than interrupt chest compressions in the cardiac arrest patient. If after 2 minutes of continuous chest compressions and BVM support an immediate endotracheal airway cannot be obtained, consider use of a supraglottic airway.

Monterey County EMS System Policy



Protocol Number: R-1
Effective Date: 7/1/2019
Review Date: 6/30/2022

