Endotracheal Intubation

FOR USE IN PATIENTS >34 KG

BLS

Universal Protocol #601
Pulse Oximetry – O_2 administration per Airway Management Protocol #602
Supraglottic Airway – as indicated to control airway– Procedure #718

- Optional skills as approved by SLOEMSA

ALS

Indications:

- Patients with a respiratory compromise.
- Patients requiring airway stabilization, including cardiac arrest and ROSC.

Contraindications:

- Intact gag reflex

Policy:

- Prepare, position, and oxygenate the patient with 100% Oxygen. Ideal positioning is keeping the ears in line with the sternal notch.
- Consider use of video laryngoscopy when available.
- Select appropriate size ET tube and consider the need for endotracheal introducer (Bougie); have suction ready.
- Using the laryngoscope, visualize vocal cords.
- Determine how accessible the patient's airway is. If the patient has a complex airway (unable to visualize the vocal cords due to surrounding anatomy) which would be difficult and time consuming to intubate, consider the use of a supraglottic airway device Procedure # 718.
- Visualization of vocal cords will take no longer than 10 seconds.
- Visualize tube/bougie passing through vocal cords.
- Inflate the cuff with 3-10mL of air.
- Apply waveform capnography (reference Policy #701).
- Auscultate for bilaterally equal breath sounds and absence of sounds over the epigastrium.
- If ET intubation efforts are unsuccessful after the 1st attempt, oxygenate and re-evaluate the airway positioning before the 2nd attempt. After first failed attempt, consider use of Supraglottic Airways (reference Procedure #718).
- If ET intubation efforts are unsuccessful after the 2nd attempt, oxygenate and provider shall then proceed to Supraglottic Airway Procedure #718.
- Patients who have an advanced airway established shall have that airway secured with tape or a commercial device. Devices and tape should be applied in a manner that avoids compression of the front and sides of the neck, which may impair venous return from the brain.

- If the patient has a suspected spinal injury:

- Open the airway using a jaw-thrust without head extension.
- If airway cannot be maintained with jaw thrust, use a head-tilt/chin-lift maneuver.
- Manually stabilize the head and neck rather than using an immobilization device during CPR.

- Following placement of the Endotracheal Tube, if the patient is noted to have an ETCO2 less than 10, the ALS Provider shall extubate the patient and oxygenate prior to an additional attempt.

Base Hospital Orders Only

As needed

Notes

- Respiratory compromise is defined as any condition that prevents the movement of oxygenated air into and out of the lungs. This includes cardiac arrests.
- ETI during cardiac arrest is indicated if the ALS provider can accomplish intubation without interruption in HPCPR. With ALS provider judgement, determines ETI cannot be accomplished, provider shall proceed to Supraglottic Airway Procedure #718.
- Once an SGA has been placed, it should not be removed for an ETI.
- If the provider cannot accomplish an ALS airway, they should document in the PCR why an ALS airway wasn't accomplished.
- After placement of the Endotracheal Tube, providers shall verify placement of the ETI by waveform capnography and a minimum of one additional method. This additional method can be any of the following:
  - Auscultation of lung and stomach sounds
  - Colorimetric CO2 Detector Device
  - Esophageal Bulb Detection Device
- During placement of an ETI, apneic oxygenation is recommended to be utilized when available. If appropriate, providers shall place a nasal cannula onto the patient prior to the intubation attempt and continue use of the nasal cannula during placement to assist in oxygenation.