

PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for adult endotracheal intubation.

AUTHORITY: Division 2.5, California Health and Safety Code, Sections 1797.220

POLICY:

- I. "Adult Endotracheal Intubation" is an advanced life support procedure that is indicated for the use in the unconscious, apneic or near apneic patient without a gag reflex.
- II. **PROCEDURE:**
 - A. Position the patient;
 - B. Perform BVM ventilation for 1-3 minutes with 100% oxygen; continue CPR
 - C. Select a proper type and size of ETT;
 - D. Insert stylet;
 - E. Ensure suctioning equipment is available;
 - F. Select proper sized blade and visualize the larynx;
 - G. Suction as needed;
 - H. Apply cricoid pressure as needed to prevent passive regurgitation;
 - I. Insert ETT 2-3cm past the cords under direct visualization;
 - J. Remove stylet and bag ventilate with BVM;
 - K. Confirm tube placement using bilateral chest and epigastric auscultation and either an esophageal detection device or end tidal CO₂ detector. Document all confirmation methods on the patient care record;
 - L. Secure the tube;
 - M. Reassess tube placement after each patient movement;

Effective: **JANUARY 1, 2007**

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Revised:

Supersedes:

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Medical Director

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EMS Administrator

- N. Do not sacrifice good ventilation and oxygenation with repeated attempts at intubation;
- O. Do not delay transport with repeated unsuccessful intubation attempts.

III. CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- A. Suspected opiate overdose
- B. Profound hypoglycemia

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