



Competencies on Airway Equipment

PACU Airway Learning and Teaching Resource

©BARNA.2020

Competencies : Airway/oxygen delivery equipment

Core clinical learning outcomes:

- Is able to locate, identify and check as ready for use, all equipment used in maintaining the airway and delivering oxygen
- Is able to explain the rationale for using equipment, how it works and to demonstrate its use

Content Theory and skills	A. Equipment for routine airway management • Is able to find and identify equipment quickly and efficiently [equipment in bold below] • Is able to check that equipment is working and ready for use • Is able to rationalise the use of equipment in clinical situations • Is able to demonstrate skill in using the equipment
Routine airway equipment	
1.	Airway adjuncts • Oropharyngeal airway [guedel] • Explains the indications for use of oropharyngeal airway • Demonstrates how to measure the oropharyngeal airway on patient • Demonstrates how to insert, withdraw and dispose of oropharyngeal airway • Nasopharyngeal airway • Explains the use of the nasopharyngeal airway • Demonstrates how to insert, withdraw and dispose of nasopharyngeal airway

	• Laryngeal mask airway [LMA] / [iGEL] • Explains the use of the Laryngeal Mask Airway / iGel mask • Demonstrates inflation and deflation of the LMA cuff • Demonstrates how to withdraw the LMA/igGel safely and dispose of it
2.	Oxygen delivery equipment • Discusses rationale for oxygen administration in PACU nursing • Wall oxygen flow meter and tubing • Checks oxygen flow meter delivering oxygen • Explains the relationship between litres/min and % of oxygen delivered via wall flowmeter • Emergency oxygen cylinders • Checks emergency oxygen cylinders full and working Oxygen delivery systems: • Hudson mask [variable] • Non re-breathe mask • Venturi mask [fixed] • T-piece • Nasal cannulae • Explains the % of oxygen delivered by each of these systems • Demonstrates skill in attaching oxygen advice to patient to ensure patient comfort
3.	Suction equipment Explains the use of suction in PACU nursing • Wall suction

	• Checks wall suction working and pressure set within safety limits • Yankauer suckers + tubing • Demonstrates how to set up, use and dispose of Yankauer suction • Soft suction catheters • Demonstrates how to set up, use and dispose of soft suction catheters • Identifies the difference in use of Yankauer and soft suction catheters
4.	Monitoring equipment: • Pulse oximeter • Switches on pulse oximeter / capnograph and checks it is working • Explains what saturation of oxygen measures • Describes how SaO₂ is used in airway assessment • Demonstrates how to position SaO₂ probe and the problems that may occur in attaining an accurate reading • Cardiac monitor • Correctly places ECG dots for routine monitoring • Switches on cardiac monitor and checks it is working • Capnograph • Explains what the capnograph measures and its use in clinical practice • Blood pressure cuff • Ensures correct size and placement of cuff

5.	Infection control/disposal equipment • Discusses how to protect the health care professional in handling and disposing of equipment • Demonstrates how to dispose of soiled equipment safely • Protective eye shield / mask • Disposable gloves • Disposal box for LMA • Tissues : gauze
Emergency airway equipment	B. Equipment for emergency airway management • Is able to find and identify equipment quickly and efficiently [equipment in bold below] • Is able to check that equipment is working and ready for use • Is able to rationalise the use of equipment in clinical situations • Is able to demonstrate skill in using the equipment
6.	• C-Circuit [Waters / Re-breathe] • Rationalises use of C-Circuit by the anaesthetist • Bag-Valve-Mask [BVM] [Ambu-Bag] • Demonstrates on mannequin how to use the BVM [one & two person] • Explains the difference between passive oxygen delivery systems [i.e. Hudson mask] and positive pressure systems [Bag-Valve-Mask and C Circuit]

7.	Emergency intubation trolley/tray and equipment: • Laryngoscope • Checks laryngoscope light is working • Blades • Batteries • Endo-tracheal tubes [ETT] • Checks size of ETT • Checks ETT balloon inflatable and ready for use • Laryngeal Mask Airway • Checks cuff on LMA • Gel • Forceps • Bougie • Introducer • Rationalises use of bougie / introducer • Tape • 10 ml syringe • Catheter mount • Demonstrates use of catheter mount • Emergency drugs as directed by anaesthetist • Demonstrates knowledge and skill in how to prepare and use the intubation equipment in assisting the anaesthetist