



Competencies on Airway Management to underpin airway management

PACU Airway Learning and Teaching Resource

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Competencies : Airway management

Core clinical learning outcomes:

- *Is able to demonstrate skilled intervention to pre-empt or correct obstruction within the context of ongoing assessment, intervention and evaluation*
- *Is able to provide rationale for clinical intervention*

Knowledge/skills	A. Essentials of airway management • <i>Demonstrates understanding of the nature of clinical decision making in the post anaesthetic phase</i>
1.	Rationalises the need for rapid assessment, intervention and evaluation in airway management
2.	Discusses how assessment of risk factors can inform airway management and pre-empt airway complications
3.	Rationalises at what point help should be summoned in airway management
Knowledge/skills	B. Stage one airway management : interventions • <i>Demonstrates skill in using first line interventions</i> • <i>Rationalises need for intervention and evaluates its effectiveness in pre-empting or correcting airway obstruction</i>
4.	Discuss oxygen flows and percentage relevant to the litres/minute
5.	Demonstrates skill in performing head tilt, chin lift

6.	Demonstrates skill in performing jaw thrust and explains when this manoeuvre is appropriate
7.	Demonstrates skill in placing the patient in the recovery position
8.	Demonstrates skill in the use of suctioning the oral cavity using : • Yankauer sucker • Soft catheter
9.	Demonstrates skill in preparation and insertion of oropharyngeal [guedel] airway
10.	Rationalises optimum moment to remove guedel airway and demonstrates this skilfully
11.	Demonstrates skill in preparation and insertion of naso-pharyngeal airway
12.	Demonstrates the safe removal and disposal of the naso-pharyngeal airway
13.	Demonstrates safe care of patient with laryngeal mask airway [LMA] supraglottic airway device [SAD]
14.	Assesses optimal time for removal of LMA
15.	Demonstrates skill in safely removing LMA and disposing of it
	C. Stage two airway management : Hand-ventilation [bagging oxygen into patient] • <i>Understands positive pressure ventilation with the use of hand bagging patient</i>
16.	Rationalises the need to hand-ventilate the patient and call for help when stage one interventions have failed to

	correct obstruction
17.	Demonstrates skill using Bag-Valve-Mask [BVM] as single operator / with second operator
18.	Demonstrates skill in directing team to locate and assemble emergency intubation equipment & drugs
	D. Stage three airway intervention : emergency intubation of the trachea • Acts with skill and speed in assisting the anaesthetist in emergency intubation
19.	Demonstrates skill in checking equipment is ready for use [laryngoscope light : ET cuff]
20.	Demonstrates skill in assisting the anaesthetist in emergency intubation
21.	Demonstrates skill in directing ongoing care of patient following intubation
	E. Specific airway complications* Discusses the mechanism, causes, presenting signs and management of patients with specific airway complications
22.	Laryngospasm
23.	Bronchospasm
24.	Residual paralysis
25.	Aspiration

	SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT ON MANAGEMENT Formal assessment of airway management assessing all the above competencies on one patient recovering from GA
26.	Demonstrates skill and understanding in routine management of a patient's airway on emergence from anaesthesia

* Indicates that this competency should not be tested within the first 6 months, it requires more experience and a greater depth of knowledge

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