Emergency Paediatric Nasopharyngeal Airway Management

**SAFETY – STIMULATE – SHOUT FOR HELP – OXYGEN**

- **SAFE:** Check Safe area, Stimulate, and Shout for help, CALL 2222 (hospital) or 999 (home)
- **AIRWAY:** Open child's airway: head tilt / chin lift / pillow or towel under shoulders may help
- **OXYGEN:** Ensure high flow oxygen to the nasopharyngeal airway AND the face as soon as oxygen available
- **Capnograph:** Exhaled carbon dioxide waveform may indicate a patent airway (secondary responders)

**SUCTION TO ASSESS NASOPHARYNGEAL AIRWAY (NPA) PATENCY**

- **Can you pass a SUCTION catheter?**
  - **YES**
    - The nasopharyngeal airway is patent
    - Perform nasopharyngeal suction
    - Consider partial obstruction
    - Consider NPA change (only if applicable)
    - CONTINUE ASSESSMENT (ABCDE)
  - **NO**

**EMERGENCY NASOPHARYNGEAL AIRWAY TUBE CHANGE**

- In emergency, consider Nasopharyngeal Airway removal if blocked – caution in Craniofacial, ENT and cleft patients post-operatively

**IS THE PATIENT BREATHING? Look, listen and feel at the mouth and nose**

- **NO**

**5 RESCUE BREATHS – USE NPA IF PATENT**

- **YES**
  - Patent Upper Airway – deliver breath to the mouth. Obstructed Upper Airway – deliver breath to nasopharyngeal airway. If the tube is blocked or not flat to the face, consider removing it and deliver breaths via the mouth (nose)

**CHECK FOR SIGNS OF LIFE ? – START CPR**

- 15 compressions: 2 rescue breaths
- Ensure help or resuscitation team called

**RESPONSES:**

- Continue oxygen, reassessment and stabilisation

**Primary emergency oxygenation**

- Standard ORAL airway manoeuvres may be appropriate.
- Use: Bag-valve-face mask
- Oral or nasal airway adjuncts
- Laryngeal Mask Airway (LMA)

**Secondary emergency oxygenation**

- ORAL intubation may be appropriate
- Uncut tube, advanced beyond stoma
- Prepare for difficult intubation
- ‘Difficult Airway’ Expert and Equipment

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**Patient ID:**

Add tube specification including cuff or inner tube
- _____ mm ID,
- _____ mm distal length

**NPA:**

- _____ FG catheter to
- Depth _____ cm

**Suction:**

- _____ mm ID, _____ mm distal length

**Patient Details**

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