

Emergency Department Intubation Checklist

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Consider the indication for intubation | Is NIPPV an option? Is the patient DNI status? Has patient/family consented, if applicable? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preoxygenate with high-flow oxygen | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assess for 1. Difficult laryngoscopy 2. Difficult BVM 3. Difficult cricothyrotomy | Look externally, Evaluate 3-3-2 rule, Mallampati score, Obstruction, Neck Mobility B eard, O bese, N o teeth, E lderly, S leep Apnea / Snoring S urgery, H ematoma, O besity, R adiation distortion or other deformity, T umor |
| <i>If suspected difficult airway, use awake technique and/or call for help</i> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check for dentures | Dentures in for bag-valve-mask, out for laryngoscopy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Position patient | Patient alignment: External auditory meatus to suprasternal notch Bed height: Patient's head to operator's lower sternum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring equipment | Continuous electrocardiogram Pulse oximetry Blood pressure End-tidal capnography (continuous or colorimetric) Two lines preferable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> IV access | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment | Use Broselow tape for sizes in pediatrics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ambu bag connected to oxygen | Size: approximate nasal bridge, malar eminences, and alveolar ridge / Err on larger size |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Laryngoscopy handles - verify power | At least two |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Laryngoscopy blades - verify bulbs | Curved and straight One size larger, one size smaller |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Suction under patient's shoulder - verify function | If suspected soiled airway (blood, vomitus, secretions), suction under each shoulder |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oral airways | Size: Angle of mouth to tragus of ear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nasal airways | Size: Tip of nose to tragus of ear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorimetric capnometer (If continuous capnography not available) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Endotracheal tubes - verify cuffs | Variety of sizes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ETT stylet | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ETT securing device (tape if no device available) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gum elastic bougie | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Difficult airway equipment | Cricothyrotomy tools / LMA / Combitube / Glidescope / Fiberoptics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Magill forceps if suspected foreign body | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drugs | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pretreatment agents, if applicable <i>Give as bolus 3 minutes prior to induction, except for fentanyl, which should be the final pretreatment agent, and should be given over 30-60 seconds.</i> | Atropine .02 mg/kg for children <10y if using Sux Lidocaine 1.5 mg/kg for reactive airways or increased ICP Fentanyl 3 mcg/kg if high BP a concern (aneurysms, dissections, tight brain, tight heart) Roc .06 mg/kg or Vec .01 mg/kg if increased ICP and using Sux |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Induction agent | Etomidate 0.3 mg/kg Propofol 1.5 - 3 mg/kg Ketamine 1-2 mg/kg Midazolam 0.2-0.3 mg/kg Thiopental 3-6 mg/kg |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paralytic agent | Succinylcholine 2 mg/kg IV or 4 mg/kg IM Contraindications to succinylcholine: History of malignant hyperthermia Burn or crush injury > 5 days old Stroke or spinal cord injury > 5 days old Multiple sclerosis, ALS, or inherited myopathy Known hyperkalemia (absolute) / Renal failure or suspected hyperkalemia (relative) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Normal saline flushes | Rocuronium 1 mg/kg Vecuronium .3 mg/kg |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phenylephrine for post-intubation hypotension | 100 mcg IV push |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel | MD / RN / RT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Post-intubation ventilator settings discussed | A/C FiO2 100% RR 18 [Asthma/COPD: 6-10] TV 8 mL/kg [work down to 6 mL/kg if prone to lung injury] <i>use ideal body weight</i> I/E 1:2 [Asthma/COPD 1:4 - 1:5] Inspiratory Flow Rate 60-80 L/min [Asthma/COPD 80-100 L/min] PEEP 5 cm H2O [CHF 6-12 > watch blood pressure] [PEEP 0 in Asthma/COPD] |

RSI vs. Awake Technique

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Verify tube placement | End-Tidal CO2 / Auscultation / Esophageal Detector Device |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secure tube with appropriate device | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Portable chest radiograph | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sedative and opioid drips | Propofol 5 mcg/kg/min Midazolam .025 mg/kg/hour Fentanyl 25 mcg/hour Ketamine 1 mg/kg load then 1 mg/kg/hour |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Head of bed to 30-45 degrees | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nasogastric or orogastric tube | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce cuff pressure to minimum required to abolish air leak | 15-25 mm Hg by cuffolator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In-line heat-moisture exchanger and in-line suction | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arterial blood gas within 30 minutes post-intubation | Adjust RR (not TV) to appropriate pH and pCO2 [keep pH ≥ 7.1 for permissive hyperCO2] Use incremental FiO2/PEEP chart for oxygenation; keep plateau pressure < 30 cm H2O |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DVT Prophylaxis | Unfractionated Heparin 5000 units SQ bid Enoxaparin 30 mg SQ bid |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arrange for patient disposition, watch for post-tube complications | ICU vs. Transfer / Tube Dislodgement, Obstruction, Pneumothorax, Equipment failure |