

END-TIDAL CO₂ MONITORING / CAPNOGRAPHY

INDICATIONS:

- Must be used in any patient with a perfusing rhythm who is intubated with either an endotracheal tube [ETT] or Combitube [ETC].
- May be used in patients without a perfusing rhythm.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- None, except adult qualitative device (e.g., EasyCap®) should not be used in children <15 kgs.

PROCEDURE:

- After airway is secure, place capnography device and use according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Determine results of capnography and assure that ETT/ETC is in correct location.
- Capnography device should remain in place for continuous monitoring, with frequent checks to ascertain the tube remains in correct location.

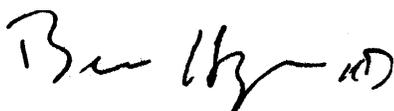
DOCUMENTATION:

- Document on prehospital care report (PCR) initial reading and final reading upon patient transfer at hospital. This will be a color description for qualitative devices and a number reading for quantitative devices.
- Document any airway interventions based on capnography reading.

NOTES:

- May not indicate right mainstem intubation; may not indicate oropharyngeal location of tube.
- "Qualitative" devices such as EasyCap® generally give a range of colors corresponding to end tidal CO₂ levels. "Quantitative" devices provide a numerical reading of expired CO₂ level.
- Qualitative device may be inaccurate in cardiac arrest or profound low-flow circulatory states and is not recommended for use in those conditions
- If membrane in qualitative (colorimetric) device becomes wet, discard and use a new device.
- During interfacility transfer of intubated children weighing less than 15 kgs, a pediatric-sized qualitative device may be used if provided by sending hospital. If not available, an adult-sized qualitative device may be used for a cycle of six breaths (maximum) and then removed. Use in this manner after any patient movement or for questionable tube placement to assist in determining tube location. Quantitative devices may be used if appropriately sized sensor is available and machine is calibrated for that sized device.

Approved:



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