

# Preparing for intubation checklist

Emergency intubation?

Yes

Turn over and proceed with fast checklist

No

Continue with preparation checklist below then turn over for final checks

## Plan A – tracheal intubation

Not > 2 attempts before changing operator or technique  
Not > 4 attempts total  
Check: Neck flexion and head extension  
Laryngoscopy technique  
External laryngeal manipulation (remove or adjust)  
Vocal cords open (adequate paralysis)

## Plan B – rescue oxygenation SAD

Not > 3 attempts  
Maintain oxygenation between attempts  
Change device, size, operator  
If successful and safe, consider FOI via LMA

## Plan C – rescue oxygenation facemask

Convert to facemask, oxygenate and ventilate  
Optimise head position  
2-person bag-mask technique, CPAP, oro/nasopharyngeal airway  
Manage gastric distension with OG/NG tube  
Reverse non-depolarising relaxant

## Plan D – emergency FONA

1. Level rises during exhalation and falls during inspiration
2. Consistent or increasing amplitude over 7 breaths
3. Peak amplitude > 1kPa (7.5 mmHg) above baseline
4. Reading is clinically appropriate

Airway plan as per DAS CICV 1-8 years flowsheet

H

**Is this high risk?**

Previous difficult intubation? CVS instability or vasopressors/inotropes? **Involve consultant anaesthetist early and consider ENT**

E

Equations

Weight, drug doses, equipment sizes  
Routine: fent 2mcg/kg, ketamine 2mg/kg, roc 1mg/kg

L

Look at child

Any predictors of difficult airway? Is position optimal?  
**Consider VL as first line**

P

Parent brief

Parents may wish to be present  
Explain 'plan B' safety briefing is routine

K

Get kit ready

Attach monitoring  
Get kit including **Making Airways Safe Trolley (MAST)**

I

IV access

Secure and flush IV access  
Aim to have 2 separate lines

D

Draw up drugs

Extra flushes and fluid bolus  
Emergency drugs with clear labels

S

Empty stomach

Insert NG  
Aspirate regularly when mask ventilating

Verify ETT position with capnography + auscultation + visual checks  
**All 4 sustained exhaled CO<sub>2</sub> criteria must be met:**

## Emergency intubation fast check

### Prepare patient

- Commence pre-oxygenation
- Optimise position (shoulder roll, head ring, pillow?)
- Check the cannula is working
- Attach monitoring
- Aspirate the stomach
- Optimise physiology (fluids, vasopressors / inotropes)

### Equipment sizes

#### Uncuffed ETT

- Term neonate: 3.5 mm ID
  - 5 months 4.0 mm ID
  - >1 year (Age/4) +4
- Length Oral ETT
- > 1 year (Age/2) + 12

### eFONA equipment sizes

#### Age 0 – 2 years

- Size 10 Scalpel + 8 Fr Bougie + Cuffed 3 & 4mm ID ETT

#### Age 2 – 8 years

- Size 10 Scalpel + 10 Fr Bougie + Cuffed 4 & 5 mm ID ETT

#### Age 8 – Adult

- Size 10 Scalpel + 14 Fr Bougie + Cuffed 5 & 6 mm ID ETT

### Prepare equipment

#### Check monitoring

- Audible SpO2 'beeps'
- BP cuff on 2-minute cycling
- ETCO2 waveform showing

#### Equipment to ventilate

- Anaesthetic circuit with ETCO2, filter and catheter mount
- Yankauer suction under pillow
- Face mask
- OPA/guedel airway

#### Equipment to intubate

- Two direct laryngoscopes
- Bulbs working?
- ET tube with cuff tested
- Size below / uncuffed
- Bougie / stylet
- Supraglottic airways with syringe to inflate
- Guedel / nasal airways
- Use video laryngoscope as first line if suspecting difficulty**

#### Check the drugs

- Consider using ketamine
- Relaxant
- Fluid bolus/extra flushes
- Vasopressors needed?
- Maintenance sedation

### Prepare team

#### Allocate roles

- Who is intubating?
- Who is assisting?
- Who is giving drugs?
- Identify other team members present

### Plan for difficulties

- Confirm the primary intubation plan (see overleaf)
- Confirm the drug doses
- What is Plan B? C?
- Is the appropriate size eFONA equipment available?
- HELP – Who? How to reach them?

Verify ETT position with capnography + auscultation + visual checks

**Check for sustained exhaled CO<sub>2</sub>**

### After intubation

- Tape tube in position
- Initiate sedation
- Establish mechanical ventilation
- Chest x-ray
- Re stock emergency airway trolley