Airway Management / General - 30.010

INDICATIONS:

Maintenance and support for airway control and protection and the adequate oxygenation and ventilation of patients.

DELIVERY SYSTEMS

A. Nasal Cannula

Flow rates are generally 4-6 liters/minute. It provides between 24-40% inspired oxygen.

B. Non-Rebreather Mask (NRB)

Provides approximately 90% inspired oxygen.

C. "Blow-By" Oxygen

Typically used in infants or toddlers or those who cannot tolerate a cannula or mask.

MAINTENANCE DEVICES

A. Nasopharyngeal Airway (NPA)

Used in patients who are unconscious or have an altered LOC and are unable to maintain their own airway and who will not accept an OPA.

B. Oropharyngeal Airway (OPA)

Used in patients who are unconscious or have an altered LOC and are unable to maintain their own airway.

C. Bag Valve Mask (BVM)

Used when respiratory drive is compromised and patient needs ventilatory assistance. Proper facial seal and head positioning are required to deliver maximum inspired oxygen and effectively ventilate the patient. Capnography and chest rise and fall should be monitored to ensure proper ventilation.

NOTES & PRECAUTIONS:

In trauma patients, airway maintenance with cervical spine control is the primary concern. If unable to establish or maintain an airway, transport the patient to the closest hospital. This includes patients entered into the Trauma System.