

Providence Health Care	Department: Respiratory Services	Date Originated: September 1986 Date Reviewed/Revised: May 2008
PROCEDURE	Topic: <u>Critical Care</u> – Insertion of an Oropharyngeal Airway (Respiratory Therapy) Number: B-00-12-12022	Related Links:
<p>APPLICABLE SITES: St. Paul's Hospital Mount Saint Joseph Hospital</p> <p>EQUIPMENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oropharyngeal airway of an appropriate size • Oral suction equipment • Tongue depressor • Personal protective equipment <p>PROCEDURE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gather equipment and supplies. Explain procedure to patient. 2. Wash hands and don personal protective equipment as required. 3. Hyperextend the patient's neck as tolerated. Omit this step if the patient is on spinal precautions. 4. Open the patient's mouth using a crossed thumb and index finger technique. The tongue depressor may also be used to aid in opening the mouth. 5. Insert the tip of the airway into the patient's mouth facing the soft palate. 6. Rotate the airway while inserting it backwards so that the tip ends up facing downwards towards the base of the tongue. 7. Position the airway between the patient's teeth. 8. Observe the patient for signs of gagging, intolerance, or obstruction. 9. Remove personal protective equipment and wash hands. 10. Chart pertinent information on the Respiratory Flowsheet or in the Multidisciplinary Progress Notes of the patient record. 		