

EL DORADO COUNTY EMS AGENCY

FIELD PROCEDURES

803

Effective: July 1, 2011
Last Revised: August 2024
Scope: ALS

(on file)
EMS Agency Medical Director

VERIFICATION OF ADVANCED AIRWAY PLACEMENT

PURPOSE:

This policy shall establish the minimum standard for verification of advanced airway placement.

POLICY:

1. Proper placement of the advanced airway shall be confirmed immediately after:
 - a. Initial placement,
 - b. Any substantial patient movement (e.g., floor to gurney, etc.),
 - c. Signs of poor ventilation/oxygenation are noticed,
 - d. Before and after transfer of care to another healthcare provider (e.g., first responder to transporting paramedic, paramedic to air ambulance personnel, or paramedic to ED staff).
2. PCR documentation shall include verification of airway placement following any of the events listed in section one and shall include SPO₂ and ETCO₂ monitor strip when ETCO₂ monitor in use. Documentation should include monitor strip of ETCO₂ tracing whenever instituted for each event listed above.

PROCEDURE:

1. Verify proper placement of the advanced airway by:
 - a. Four-point auscultation of the anterior chest at approximately the second intercostal space, and at approximately the fourth intercostal space; and
 - b. Auscultation over the epigastrium; and
 - c. ETCO₂ waveform and value.
 - d. Continued monitoring of ETCO₂ shall be instituted for all patients with an advanced airway.*

LEADSD:

L - Lung Sounds
E - EtCO₂
A - Absent Abdominal Sounds
D - Depth of Tube ("22 at the teeth")
S - Size
D - Document EtCO₂ and SPO₂ values, and transfer of care time

*Refer to the ETCO₂ Procedure.