

# End Tidal CO<sub>2</sub> (EtCO<sub>2</sub>) Monitoring

Applies to:
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P	Paramedic
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**Clinical Indications:**

1. Capnography shall be used when available with the use of all advanced airway procedures and as required by treatment guidelines.

**Procedure:**

1. Attach capnography sensor to the advanced airway or any other oxygen delivery device, including bag-valve mask and nasal cannula.
2. Note that EtCO<sub>2</sub> level and waveform changes. Values shall be documented in the EHR.
3. The capnometer shall remain in place and be monitored throughout prehospital care and transport.
4. Any loss of EtCO<sub>2</sub> detection or waveform may indicate an airway problem and should be immediately addressed and thoroughly documented.
5. Document the procedure and results in the EHR.

**Notes:**

1. EtCO<sub>2</sub> readings may be unreliable if the patient is in shock or has poor perfusion.
2. Normal EtCO<sub>2</sub> levels range from 35 – 45, but this may vary based on the patient's underlying respiratory and metabolic status.
3. EtCO<sub>2</sub> levels that rise from a normal baseline to or above 40 generally indicates hypoventilation is occurring.
4. Patient stimulation, use of a BVM, or use of Naloxone may be appropriate based on the situation.



## Field Procedure FP12

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