NOR-CAL EMS	05-0908	Skills: Airway Interventions

Nor-Cal EMS Policy & Procedure Manual	BLS/ALS Protocols
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Approval: Jeffrey Kepple MD – MEDICAL DIRECTOR	SIGNATURE ON FILE

Authority: Health and Safety Code Division 2.5, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9.

Provider Name: Provider's Signature:	Cert #: Provider Agency:
Validator's Name: Validator's Signature:	Date:

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	MET (Initials)	NOT MET (Initials)	COMMENTS
Suctioning			
1. Universal precautions, including droplet precautions.			
2. Identify need for suctioning.			
3. Explain procedure to the patient.			
4. Assemble equipment and ensure proper functioning.			
5. For Yankeur or Tonsil Tip Catheter: A. Apply suction and gently insert into mouth.			
6. For Suction Catheter: A. Select appropriate size. B. Gently insert catheter without applying suction. C. Apply suction and withdraw catheter using a rotating motion.			
7. Limit suction attempt to five seconds, noting patient's status during procedure.			
8. Document patient's response to procedure in PCR.			
Oropharyngeal Airway			
1. States indications and contraindications to procedure.			
2. Have suction immediately available.			
3. Select appropriate OPA Size. A. Measure from the corner of the mouth to the earlobe.			
4. Partially insert the OPA upside down and rotate 180 degrees while completely inserting the airway. A. Note: Do not push tongue back and occlude airway.			
5. Reassess patient's respiratory status and prepare to assist ventilations as needed.			
6. Document patient's response to procedure in PCR.			
Nasopharyngeal Airway			
1. States indications and contraindications to procedure.			

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	MET (Initials)	NOT MET (Initials)	COMMENTS
2. Have suction immediately available.			
3. Select appropriate NPA Size. A. Measure from the tip of the nose to the earlobe.			
4. Generously lubricate airway.			
5. Gently insert airway into nare, do not force, may attempt other nare if resistance is met.			
6. Reassess patient's respiratory status and prepare to assist ventilations as needed.			
7. Document patient's response to procedure in PCR.			