New Policy on Management of a Patient with a Difficult Airway

Activation of the airway management occurs after the airway is found to be more complex than expected, or the patient is known to have a difficult airway and now requires intubation, or has had a failed intubation attempt using standard techniques.

New Policy # CM A-35 Adult Difficult Airway Management (Downtown)
New Procedure CM A-35A Adult Difficult Airway Management Procedure (Downtown)
Revised Policy # CM G-01 Glidescope and Difficult Airway Cart (Downtown and Community)
Revised Procedure CM G-01A Glidescope and Difficult Airway Cart (Downtown)
Revised Procedure CM G-01B Glidescope and Difficult Airway Cart (Community)

Downtown Campus:
- If a patient has a known difficult airway it will be documented in the patient’s medical record by the primary service and flagged in the record by nursing, using Patient FYI process in EPIC.
  Activation of the *difficult airway algorithm should occur for any patient with a known difficult airway requiring urgent intubation and/or when there is an inability to intubate with standard techniques.
- *To activate the Difficult Airway Algorithm dial 4-4444 or press code button on phone and request a STAT (triple) page of anesthesia AND ENT to unit/area and give extension call back number. (CM A-35A)
- 6 Glidescope and Difficult Airway Carts will be available throughout the hospital
- Do not activate the difficult airway algorithm in the OR or ED.

Community Campus:
- If the Difficult Airway Cart is needed request a STAT (triple) page of anesthesia to the unit/area and give extension call back number.
- 2 Glidescope and Difficult Airway Carts will be available. These will be located in the ED and ICU.

*Definition*-Glidescope-a video camera assisted laryngoscope for assisting with endotracheal intubation and examination.

See next page for Adult Difficult airway Management Algorithm
Known Difficult Airway Patient requiring urgent intubation

Or

Unable to intubate a patient using standard techniques

Face mask ventilation with O2

STAT page
Anesthesia
AND
ENT
x4-4444

Obtain Difficult Airway Cart
/Glidescope

Anesthesia to obtain airway securement using difficult airway equipment

Unable

ENT to obtain airway securement using difficult airway equipment

ENT to obtain airway via surgical technique