

Nasal Intubation Procedure



This protocol is only to be utilized by paramedics within an adopting MCA.

Indication: Spontaneously breathing adult patient with a gag reflex in need of advanced airway.

Documentation Points

✓ Size of ET tube	✓ Specific indication(s) for NT intubation
✓ Number of attempts	✓ Suction required
✓ ET Tube measurement (cm) at nare	✓ Chest rise with ventilation
✓ Ventilation compliance	✓ Color-metric End-tidal CO ₂
✓ Capnography used	✓ ETCO ₂ /Capnography reading
✓ Equality of lung sounds	✓ Absence of epigastric sounds
✓ Method for securing ET tube	✓ Any complications with intubation procedure

Contraindications:

1. Patients without spontaneous respiratory effort.
2. Patients with mid-face and nasal trauma.
3. Relative contraindication - known bleeding disorder.
4. Patients that are candidates for CPAP, if available, and not already attempted.

Technique for Nasotracheal Intubation:

1. Ventilate patient with 100% oxygen.
2. Gather equipment: Same as for orotracheal intubation except:
 - A. Stylet is not used
 - B. Water soluble lubricant needed, preferably lidocaine jelly
3. Liberally lubricate nares and the distal portion of the tube. If available, lidocaine jelly on a nasal pharyngeal airway should be used.
4. Secure the tube connector to the tube with firm pressure prior to beginning procedure.
5. Insert ET tube into nares with the bevel against the septum.
6. Advance the tube posteriorly with gentle pressure. If resistance is encountered may attempt gentle back and forth rotation of tube while advancing.
7. As tube is advanced into nasopharynx, listen for airflow through the ET tube. Advance the tube until airflow appears loudest. If using tip-controlled ET tube, direct tube tip anteriorly.
8. In synchrony with inhalation rapidly advance tube until airflow is clearly heard through tube.
9. Advance tube until the adapter is approximately 1 cm from nares.
10. Inflate balloon, attach ventilation device, and confirm as for orotracheal intubation. Right main stem intubation is uncommon. If chest rise is limited to right side, carefully withdraw tube (with balloon deflated) until breath sounds become equal.
11. Secure tube and reassess tube placement at frequent intervals.