



BAG VALVE MASK (B.V.M.)



Escambia County, Florida – 1st Responder Medical Protocol

Manual device for providing assisted ventilations and oxygenation for patients requiring airway or ventilatory support.

The device may be used with the facemask.

Procedure

1. Perform patient assessment to determine the ability of the patient to oxygenate and/or ventilate.
2. Connect the bag-valve mask device to an oxygen source. Adjust the flow rate to 15 L/min.
3. Position the patient so that the device and ventilations can be adequately administered.
4. Position the head and neck into a “sniffing” position. When trauma to head or spine is suspected, protect and maintain control of the cervical spine with in-line stabilization. A cervical collar may be applied and the patient may be placed on a backboard.

A . 1-person technique:


- Place the mask portion of the bag-valve mask onto the patient’s face with the apex toward the nose and the base toward the chin.
- Using the thumb (over the apex side) and index finger (over the base side), depress the mask onto the patient’s face.
- Position the remaining three fingers onto the bony portion of the patient’s mandible and elevate. Be careful not to position the fingers into the soft tissue area of the neck under the chin. iv. Provide ventilations keeping a tight seal on the face while elevating the jaw to keep the airway open. If air is noted to escape from around the mouth, resecure the seal. If gastric sounds or distention is noted, reposition airway.



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B. Using a 2-person technique:

- While one first responder will secure the mask to the patient's face and maintain the airway (best positioned in-line with the patient's head), the other will provide the ventilations (best positioned at the patient's side).
- The first responder responsible for the mask will place the mask portion of the bag-valve mask onto the patient's face with the apex toward the nose and the base toward the chin. Using both thumbs (over the apex side) and index fingers (over the base side), depress the mask onto the patient's face.
- Position the remaining three fingers on both hands onto the bony portion of the patient's mandible and elevate. Be careful not to position the fingers into the soft tissue area of the neck under the chin.
- The first responder responsible for providing ventilations should initiate same once positioning is complete and secure.

5. Continue to assess breathing status and vital signs until EMS arrival.

Notes


Fatigue is a common problem when performing this procedure for prolonged periods. When this occurs, an improper seal or unsecure airway may result. It is always important to have back-up assistance when fatigue is approaching.



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