



# ORAL / NASAL AIRWAY



Escambia County, Florida – 1<sup>st</sup> Responder Medical Protocol

## OROPHARYNGEAL AIRWAY

The oropharyngeal airway (oral airway) is a disposable semi-circular device used to hold the tongue away from the posterior wall of the pharynx.

*This airway should only be used in patients without a gag reflex.*

### Procedure

- 1 Safe scene, standard precautions.
- 2 Measure oropharyngeal airway for proper size (from angle of the mandible to just beyond the lips).
- 3 Clear mouth and pharynx of any foreign objects, blood, vomit or secretions.
- 4 Select proper ventilator device and proper mask.
- 6 Ensure seal around patient's airway and ventilate.
- 7 Watch for chest rise.



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Page 1 of 3

Approved by:

  
Charles Neal, D.O. Medical Director



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## NASOPHARYNGEAL AIRWAY

The nasopharyngeal airway is a flanged disposable airway that is soft and pliable. It is used to maintain compromised airways on conscious and semi-conscious patients with a gag reflex. In most of the population (approximately 90%), the airway is inserted into the right nares. In patients with deviated septums, the airway will need to be inverted so the bevel is toward the septum and then inverted again when the airway reaches the posterior wall.

Lubrication may or may not be needed.

*The airway should not be forced.*

*The airway is contraindicated with severe head trauma, basal skull fracture and nasal or maxillofacial fractures.*

### Procedure

- 1 Safe scene, standard precautions.
- 2 Measure nasal pharyngeal airway for proper size. (From earlobe to tip of the nose).
- 3 Clear airway of any foreign objects, blood, vomit or secretions.
- 4 Insert airway.
- 5 Administer appropriate ventilatory support or oxygen therapy.



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Page 2 of 3

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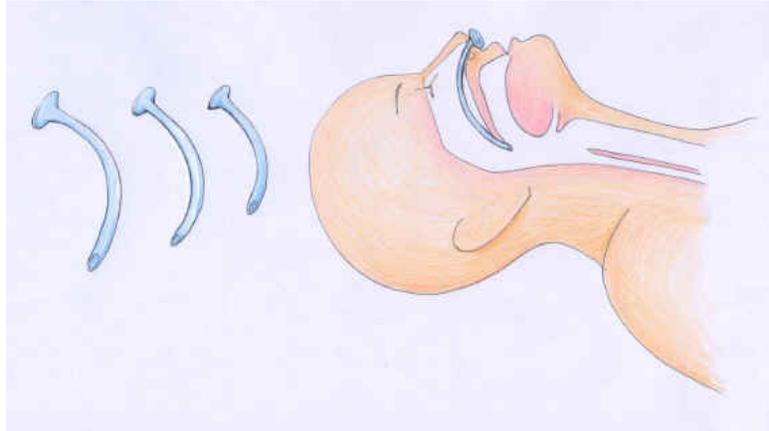
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Neal".  
Charles Neal, D.O. Medical Director



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Page 3 of 3

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