

- a. Airway Maintenance Confirmation - All patients having their airway and breathing maintained by ALS with either a BVM, Supraglottic airway, or Endotracheal Intubation shall have ETCO₂ monitored to ensure successful airway control, both initially and throughout the duration of care of that patient.
- b. Assessment of Sedation - In patients sedated by drugs or alcohol, or those sedated by HFD narcotic or benzodiazepine therapy, ETCO₂ monitoring provides a gauge of their ventilatory status. With an ETCO₂ within normal values, the patient is in less respiratory compromise than the patient whose ETCO₂ is elevated or becoming progressively elevated indicating hypoventilation. This information can be used as a guide to therapy of a patient with regard to both nalaxone administration as well as potential repeat dosages of narcotics or benzodiazepines.
- c. Assessment of perfusion status in patients with ventricular assist devices.

L. Neonatal / “Newly Born” [BLS/ALS]

1. Bulb suctioning is indicated immediately following birth for those neonates who have obvious obstruction to spontaneous breathing or who require BVM ventilations.
2. Deep suctioning of the airway with an endotracheal tube is no longer recommended. Standard bulb suctioning alone is recommended to remove any secretions present.
3. Because the neonate is an obligate nose breather, it is advisable to suction once through each nostril to ensure patency of the upper airway.

M. Oxygen Therapy Guideline [BLS/ALS]

1. The intent of the Oxygen Therapy Guideline is to provide an individualized approach to oxygenation to the patient. Taking into account vital signs, pulse oximetry and condition of the patient, the guideline provides patient-focused means of oxygenation.
2. The use of Pulse Oximetry is required for the guideline. If Pulse Oximetry is unobtainable, utilize clinical judgement to administer O₂ via NC or NRB as required.
3. When a specific guideline indicates additional respiratory treatment (i.e. nebulization, CPAP), that treatment replaces, or is utilized in addition to, the oxygen therapy indicated here.