

EL DORADO COUNTY EMS AGENCY

FIELD PROCEDURES

Effective: July 1, 2015

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Revised: July, 2015



EMS Agency Medical Director

GASTRIC TUBE INSERTION

PURPOSE:

To prevent gastric distention and aspiration in pediatric and adult patients.

INDICATIONS:

- To prevent gastric distention during prolonged bag-valve-mask ventilation
- When gastric distention impedes ventilation in patients being ventilated by either bag-valve-mask or ET tube
- When otherwise deemed appropriate by base station

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- Recent esophageal surgery
- Presence of a percutaneous gastric tube
- Toxic ingestion (unless ordered by base station)

PROCEDURE:

1. Select the appropriate tube size:
Infant: 8 French.
Child: 12 French.
Adult: 16 French.
2. Measure the tube from the patient's mid abdomen, around their ear to the tip of the patient's nose to determine the proper length of insertion.
3. Lubricate the tube and insert it directed posteriorly along the floor of the nose.
4. Confirm tube placement by aspirating gastric contents and by injecting 5-20 mL of air while auscultating over the left upper quadrant.
5. Secure the tube.

Endotracheal intubation should be performed prior to gastric intubation whenever possible.