

Capnography

	EMR	
B	EMT	B
A	AEMT	A
P	PARAMEDIC	P

Clinical Indications:

- Capnography shall be used when available with the use of all invasive airway procedures including endotracheal, nasotracheal, cricothyrotomy, or Blind Insertion Airway Devices (BIAD).
- Capnography should also be used when possible with CPAP.

Procedure:

1. Attach capnography sensor to the BIAD, endotracheal tube, or oxygen delivery device.
2. Note CO₂ level and waveform changes. These will be documented on each respiratory failure, cardiac arrest, or respiratory distress patient.
3. The capnometer shall remain in place with the airway and be monitored throughout the prehospital care and transport.
4. Any loss of CO₂ detection or waveform indicates an airway problem and should be documented.
5. The capnogram should be monitored as procedures are performed to verify or correct the airway problem.
6. Document the procedure and results on/with the Patient Care Report (PCR) and the Airway Evaluation Form.

Certification Requirements:

- Maintain knowledge of the indications, contraindications, technique, and possible complications of the procedure. Assessment of this knowledge may be accomplished via quality assurance mechanisms, classroom demonstrations, skills stations, or other mechanisms as deemed appropriate by the local EMS System.