

Drug Assisted Airway

Policy:

Drug Assisted Intubation (DAI) requires an EMS System or Agency to follow these guidelines to ensure that this invasive procedure is performed in a safe and effective manner to benefit the citizens and guest of North Carolina.

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Ensure that the procedure is performed in a safe and effective manner
- Facilitate airway management in appropriate patients

Procedure:

1. In addition to other monitoring devices, Waveform Capnography and Pulse Oximetry are required to perform Drug Assisted Airways and must be monitored throughout the procedure.
2. Two Paramedics or higher-level providers must be present and participate in the airway management of the patient during the procedure.
3. All staff must be trained and signed off by the EMS Medical Director prior to performing Drug Assisted Airways.
4. A printed copy or electronic download from the monitor defibrillator including the pulse oximetry, heart rate, heart rhythm, waveform capnography, and blood pressure must be stored with the patient care report.
5. An EMS Airway Evaluation Form must be completed on all Drug Assisted Airway Attempts.
6. The EMS Airway Evaluation Form must be reviewed and signed by the EMS Medical Director within 14 days of the Drug Assisted Airway attempts.
7. All Drug Assisted Airways must be reviewed by the EMS System or Agency and issues identified addressed through the System Peer Review Committee.
8. A copy of the EMS Airway Evaluation form for each Drug Assisted Airways must be submitted to OEMS Regional Office at the end of each month for state review.

In addition, the NC EMS Airway Evaluation Form has been revised to a one page document to improve provider compliance and promote receiving/confirming physician acceptance.