



North Carolina College of Emergency Physicians Standards Procedure (Skill) Airway: Intubation Confirmation-Esophageal Bulb



Clinical Indications:

- To assist in determining and documenting the correct placement of an Endotracheal or Nasotracheal tube.

B	EMT	B
I	EMT- I	I
P	EMT- P	P

It is strongly recommended that continuous Capnography be used in place of or in addition to the use of an Esophageal Bulb device.

Procedure:

1. Complete intubation as per Airway-Intubation Oral or Airway-Intubation Nasal procedures.
2. Place the bulb device over the proximal end of the ETT or NTT. Squeeze the bulb to remove air prior to securing the bulb on the tube.
3. Once secured on the tube, release the bulb.
4. If the bulb expands evenly and easily, this indicates probable tracheal intubation. Assessment of the patient's breath sounds bilaterally should also be performed.
5. If the bulb does not expand easily, this indicates possible esophageal intubation and the need to reassess the airway.
6. Document time and result in the patient care report (PCR).

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.