

**TRAUMA SERVICES**  
**DEPARTMENTAL GUIDELINES AND**  
**PROCEDURES**

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**TITLE:** DIFFICULT AIRWAY MANAGEMENT ALGORHYTHM

**PURPOSE:** To provide guidelines on the management of a difficult airway for those patients meeting Code One trauma activation criteria.

**ELABORATIONS:**

**I. INTRODUCTION:**

In an effort to facilitate the management of the difficult airway and to reduce the likelihood of adverse outcomes, guidelines for standardization of difficult airway management provide recommendations that assist the practioner. Collaboration and clinical judgement between services will ultimately dictate deviation from the guideline. Example: Distortion of anatomy, massive head trauma with disruption of head and neck/tracheal anatomy.

**II. DEFINITIONS:**

Airway Attempt – the insertion of an airway device (ETT or supraglottic airway) past the teeth (for orotracheal approaches) or nare (for nasotracheal approaches).

# TRAUMA SERVICES

## DEPARTMENTAL GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

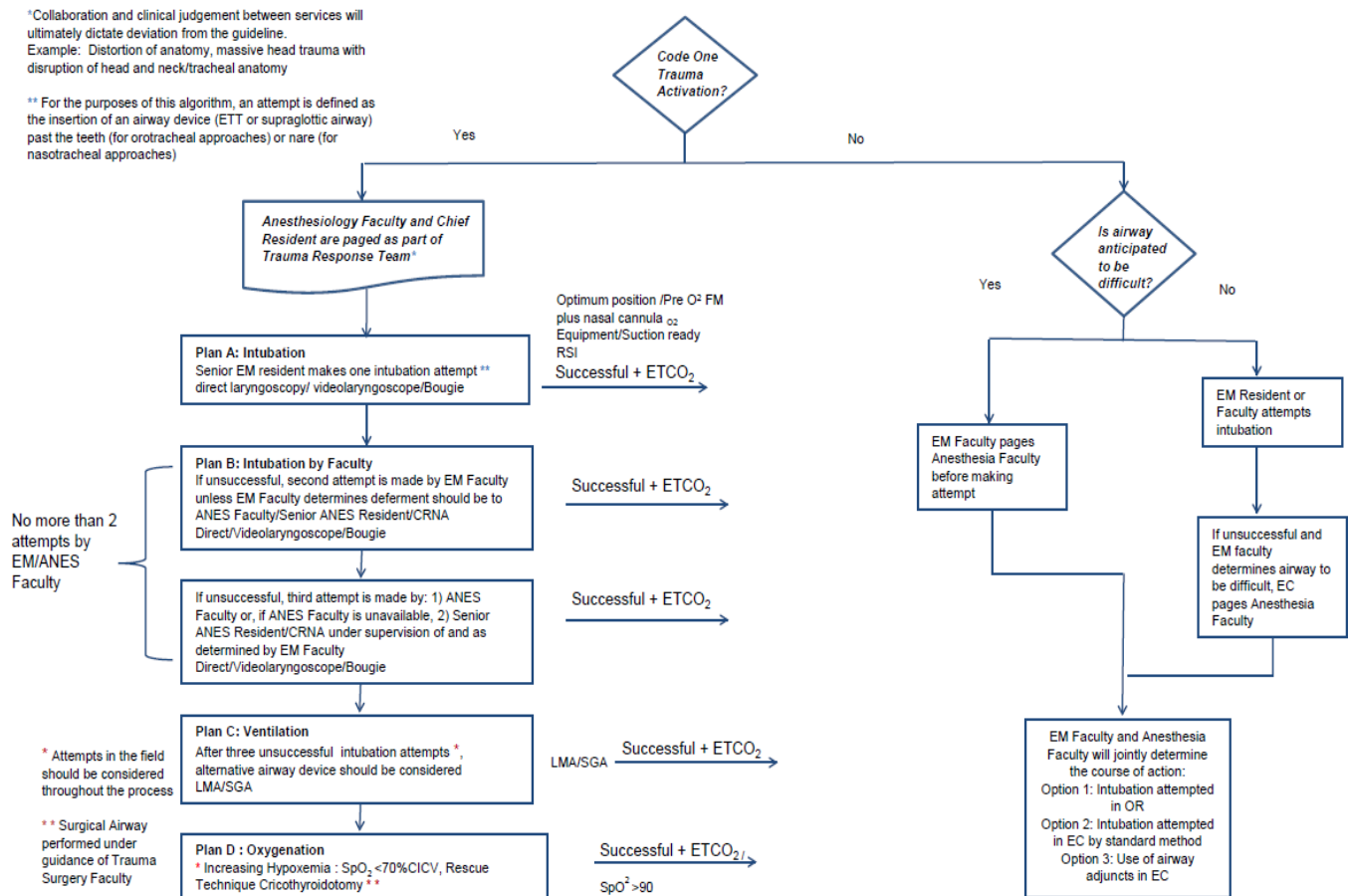
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### III. GUIDELINE:

#### Difficult Airway Management Algorithm Revised 1/6/2016

\*Collaboration and clinical judgement between services will ultimately dictate deviation from the guideline.  
Example: Distortion of anatomy, massive head trauma with disruption of head and neck/tracheal anatomy

\*\* For the purposes of this algorithm, an attempt is defined as the insertion of an airway device (ETT or supraglottic airway) past the teeth (for orotracheal approaches) or nares (for nasotracheal approaches)



### REFERENCES/BIBLIOGRAPHY

### DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY:

Trauma Services

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**REVISION HISTORY:**

Effective Date	Version # (If Applicable)	Review or Revision Date (Indicate Reviewed or Revised)	Reviewed or Approved by: (Directors, Committees, Managers, and Stakeholders etc.)
1/6/16	1		Trauma Research & Protocol Committee