

## EMS Airway Education Opportunities

ABC – the first thing you start with when you learn to become a paramedic. “Start with the ABCs; airway breathing and circulation. No airway, no breathing, no breathing, not long for circulation.” We all know it. We all hear it. We all assess them on every patient every time.

But is there more to the A of ABCs than just our initial assessment of “is it patent”? We all know the answer is yes. Ever have that soiled airway? The difficult to manage patient who needs you to provide an airway? We have. But what have I really learned about when to provide that first lifesaving access? What’s the thought process for using airway adjuncts so oxygen can get into the physiological system of the lungs, heart and eventually every cell?

Then once that A is provided, what about the B? Is it all the same for everyone? Does everyone breathe the same? How much oxygen or air do they need? Does everyone need the same 8-10 breaths a minute of our CPR training? Or do some require a different approach? The hyperventilating patient – why are they hyperventilating? The asthma patient – they show SPO2 of 100%, so why are they still short of breath? Can I really harm someone by giving them too much air or too much oxygen?

We try to answer these questions for you and more in the Basic and Advanced Airway Days provided by a collaboration of EMS Regina, Dilawri Simulation Centre, STARS and our south zone EMS Medical Director. The team has developed Advanced Airway Version 1, Advanced Airway Version 2 for Advanced Care Paramedics and PCPs working in services with ACPs. From those sprang a Basic Airway Day designed for the PCP but perfect for the EMR and ICP as well.

Advanced Airway version 1 focuses on the basics of improving first pass success when ACPs intubate. Recognizing the need for an airway, preparing properly to provide one, and then achieving success because we were prepared and practiced. Intubation is a hot topic and there are those who believe paramedics should not intubate in the field. We want to help every ACP do it with excellence and maintain this skill in Saskatchewan!

Advanced Airway version 2 builds on that and incorporates ventilation strategies for different patient conditions to give our patient’s the best chance of a good outcome.

The Basic Airway course focuses on understanding the importance proper positioning, proper airway adjuncts and best bag valve mask techniques to optimize the airway and breathing for patients.

All who have attended have left glowing comments on what they learned. Plus, they all say they recommend that others take the course they attended.

The courses are open to any Saskatchewan paramedic or EMR who wants to attend. Advanced Airway version 1 for ACPs or Basic Airway day for EMR/PCP/ICP is required to attend Advanced Airway version 2.

2021 Course dates:

Basic Airway – April 8, 15, 22, 29                      November 4, 18, 25

Advanced Airway Version 1 – May 20

Advanced Airway Version 2 – September 9, 16, 23, 30

Email: [Daniel.Lewis@saskhealthauthority.ca](mailto:Daniel.Lewis@saskhealthauthority.ca) to register for any of these airway days.