

HEALTHEAST MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION
MEDICAL OPERATIONS MANUAL

7A NASOPHARYNGEAL AIRWAY (NPA)

PATIENT CARE GOALS

- To provide a patent airway for patients who are unable to maintain their own.¹

EMT

1. Measure the nasopharyngeal airway. A properly sized NPA will extend from the patient's nostril to the tip of the earlobe or to the angle of the jaw. The diameter of the device should be approximately the same size as the patient's smallest finger.
2. Apply a water-based lubricant to the outside of the tube before insertion.
3. Gently push the tip of the patient's nose upward.
4. Insert the NPA in the patient's right nare with bevel toward nasal septum. Gently push the NPA into the nare until the flange rests against the nare.^{2,3}

DOCUMENTATION KEY POINTS

- Indication for and size of nasopharyngeal airway.

NOTES

- ¹ Placement of a **nasopharyngeal airway** is contraindicated in patients with indications of nasal/ facial injuries, cerebral spinal fluid flowing from the nose or ears, or severe head injury.
- ² Never force a nasopharyngeal airway. If you experience difficulty advancing the airway, pull the tube out and try the other nostril.
- ³ Insert an NPA into each nostril to improve airway patency during cardiac arrest resuscitation and advanced airway management.