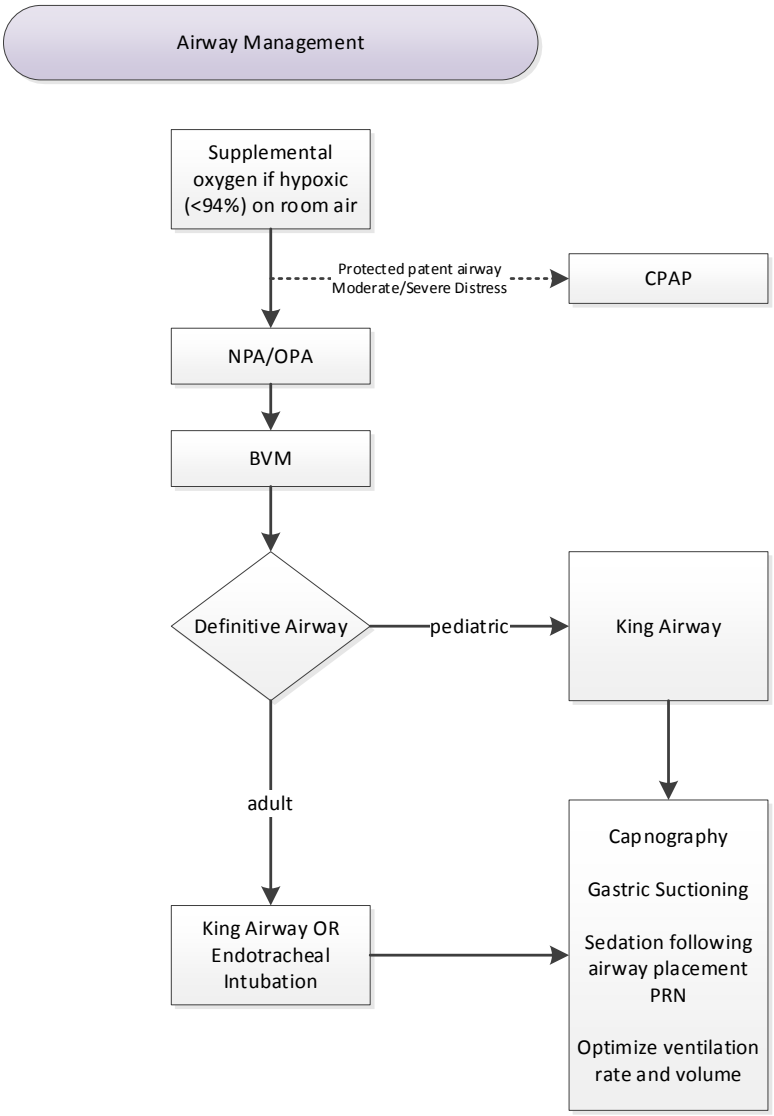
Respiratory - Airway: AIRWAY MANAGEMENT Practice Guideline

Patient Care Goals:
1. Recognize and alleviated respiratory distress.
2. Provide effective oxygenation and ventilation through support interventions.

Patient Presentation:
Inclusion Criteria
Signs of severe respiratory distress or failure.
Patients with hypoxemia or hypoventilation.
Exclusion Criteria
Patients who improve with supplemental oxygen or other interventions.

Treatment:
CPAP for moderate to severe respiratory distress.
NPA/OPA for anyone with impaired protective reflexes.
BVM for hypoventilation or respiratory failure; insert 2 NPA's and OPA when using BVM to assist effectiveness of ventilations.
Definitive airway as suggested.
If ET is used, no more than 2 ET attempts per patient ensure no hypoxia between attempts.
Post airway insertion includes continuous capnography, securing with commercial device, gastric suctioning and sedation PRN.
Avoid hyperventilation.

Quality Improvement:
Key Documentation Elements
ETCO2 confirmation AND monitoring

Patient Safety Considerations:
Capnography is a critical safety tool in patients with an advanced airway.