



Capnography

EMT-Basic

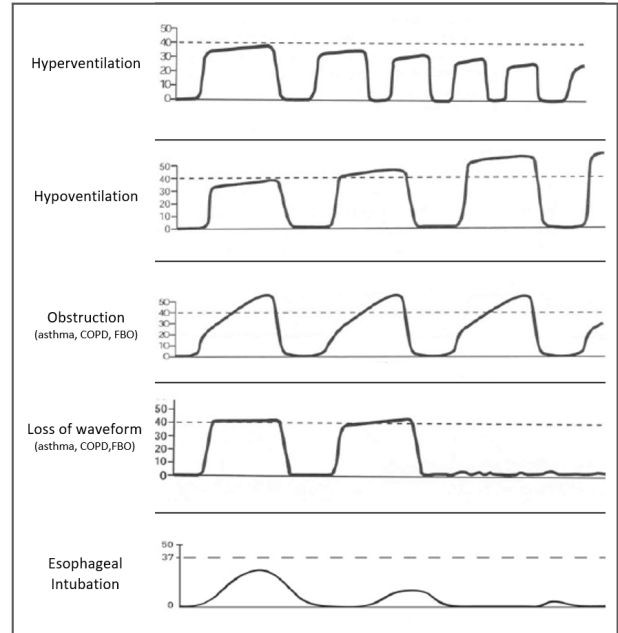
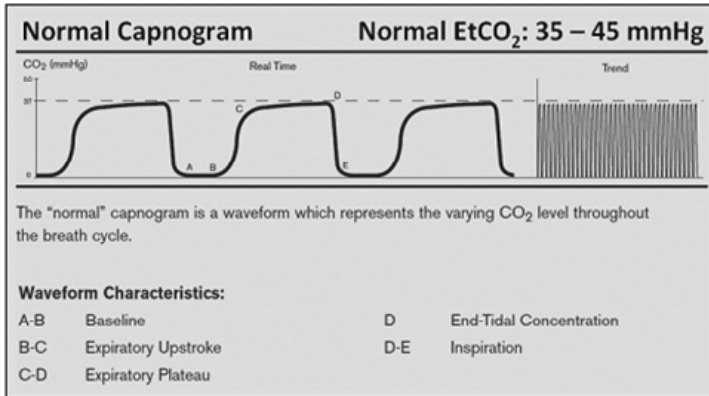
Advanced EMT

Paramedic

PROCEDURE

- Apply side-stream or main-stream sensor to patient or airway device
- Ensure to turn the capnography function on the cardiac monitor **ON**
- Assess waveform and value displayed on the monitor
- Reassess waveform and value each time the patient is moved/transferred
- Document waveform, trends, and values appropriately

REFERENCE GRAPHICS



KEY POINTS

- Apply capnography to all patients with potential respiratory decompensation or compromise
- If able, apply the sensor prior to placing advanced airway to assess capnography reading prior to airway intervention
- If the reading is ≤ 5 even during resuscitation, ensure the function is enabled on the monitor and troubleshoot:
 - misplaced/dislodged airway
 - airway obstruction
 - other impairment to ventilation
- Contact OLMC for TOR guidance in the setting of cardiac arrest when EtCO₂ values of zero recur or persist after troubleshooting
- Patients receiving ventilatory support via BVM and/or advanced airway should have waveform capnography applied within 3 minutes of arrival of capable monitoring device.
- Waveform capnography should be continued throughout patient care until termination/handoff of care



Want to know more about capnography:
litfl.com/capnography-waveform-interpretation/

INDICATIONS

- BVM ventilation
- Advanced airway placement such as an endotracheal tube or SGA (King Airway, i-gel)
- Altered mental status
- Any patient at risk for, or needing assessment of, hypoventilation
- Patients experiencing respiratory distress (e.g. asthma, COPD, etc.)
- Sepsis
- Medication administration for patient restraint or procedural sedation

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