



CLINICAL GUIDELINE

Special Airway Considerations

Scope (Staff):	Nursing and Medical Staff
Scope (Area):	NICU KEMH, NICU PCH, NETS WA

This document should be read in conjunction with this [DISCLAIMER](#)

- Difficulties with airway management are usually due to anatomical problems and are usually associated with specific conditions.
- With difficult airways, always consider less invasive airway management. Intubation of such neonates can be very difficult and specialist assistance (ENT) is often required.


Conditions Associated with a Difficult Airway

Condition	Notes	Management
Pierre Robin sequence	Micrognathia Relative macroglossia +/- Cleft	Nurse prone Nasopharyngeal airway Guedel airway LMA
Treacher Collins syndrome	Mandibular and malar hypoplasia Hi arched palate	Nurse prone Nasopharyngeal airway Guedel airway LMA Often requires ENT assistance
Goldenhar syndrome	Oculo-auriculovertebral dysplasia Facial hypoplasia Asymmetric jaw Limited neck movement	Nasopharyngeal airway Guedel airway LMA may not have good seal due to asymmetry
Crouzon/Aperts syndrome	Hypoplastic mandible Small midface Craniosynostosis	Guedel airway
Choanal atresia/stenosis	Partial or complete nasal	Guedel airway provides

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	obstruction	simple effective airway
Cystic hygroma	Soft tissue airway obstruction (mass effect)	Often requires ENT assistance
Mucopolysaccharidoses	Soft tissue airway obstruction Limited neck movement	Nasopharyngeal airway Guedel airway LMA

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File Path:			
Document Owner:	Neonatology		
Reviewer / Team:	Neonatal Coordinating Group		
Date First Issued:	August 2009	Last Reviewed:	1 st July 2017
Amendment Dates:		Next Review Date:	1 st July 2020
Approved by:	Neonatal Coordinating Group	Date:	26 th September 2017
Endorsed by:	Neonatal Coordinating Group	Date:	
Standards Applicable:	NSQHS Standards: 		
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