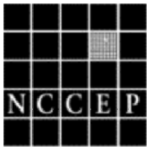

North Carolina College of Emergency Physician's

Standards Procedure (Skill)

Airway-Combitube

	EMT	
I	EMT- I	I
P	EMT- P	P

Clinical Indications:

- In an apneic patient when endotracheal intubation is not possible or not available.
- Patient must be $\geq$ 5 feet and $\geq$16 years of age.
- Patient must be unconscious.

Procedure:

1. Preoxygenate and hyperventilate the patient.
2. Lubricate the tube.
3. Grasp the patient's tongue and jaw with your gloved hand and pull forward.
4. Gently insert the tube until the teeth are between the printed rings.
5. Inflate line 1 (blue pilot balloon) leading to the pharyngeal cuff with 100 cc of air.
6. Inflate line 2 (white pilot balloon) leading to the distal cuff with 15 cc of air.
7. **Ventilate the patient through the longer blue tube**.
   Auscultate for breath sounds and sounds over the epigastrium.
   Look for the chest to rise and fall.
8. **If breath sounds are positive and epigastric sounds are negative, continue ventilation through the blue tube. The tube is in the esophagus.**
   In the esophageal mode, stomach contents can be aspirated through the #2, white tube relieving gastric distention.
9. If breath sounds are negative and epigastric sounds are positive, attempt ventilation through the shorter, #2 white tube and reassess for lung and epigastric sounds. If breath sounds are present and the chest rises, you have intubated the trachea and continue ventilation through the shorter tube.
10. The device is secured by the large pharyngeal balloon.
11. Confirm tube placement using end-tidal CO_2 detector or esophageal bulb device.

- **Endotracheal intubation with a Combitube in Place:**
  (Not necessary if the ventilations are adequate with the Combitube.)
  A. The tube must be in the esophageal mode.
  B. Prepare all equipment needed for endotracheal intubation.
  C. Decompress the stomach by aspirating contents through the shorter, white tube.
  D. Hyperventilate the patient.
  E. Deflate the balloons on the Combitube and remove.
  Suction equipment must be ready.
  F. Rapidly proceed with endotracheal intubation.

Certification Requirements:

- Maintain knowledge of the indications, contraindications, technique, and possible complications of the procedure. Assessment of this knowledge may be accomplished via quality assurance mechanisms, classroom demonstrations, skills stations, or other mechanisms as deemed appropriate by the local EMS System. Assessment should include direct observation at least once per certification cycle.