## Airway: BLS Management

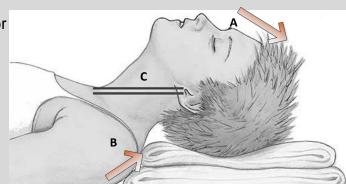
#### **Clinical Indications:**

1. A patient who is unable to maintain their airway without assistance.

# Applies to: E EMT P Paramedic

### Procedure:

- 1. Position the patient to optimize airway opening and facilitate ventilations.
  - a. Use the sniffing position with head extended (A) and neck flexed forward (B) unless there is a suspected spinal injury.
  - Position with head/shoulders elevated; anterior ear should be at the same horizontal level as the sternal notch (C). This is especially advantageous in larger or morbidly obese patients.
- 2. Using a two-person technique is the preferred method to ventilate patients with a Bag-Valve-Mask (BVM).
  - a.  $\mathbf{J}$  jaw thrust maneuver to open the airway.



- b. **A** use a nasal or oral airway. Appropriately measure before placing airway adjunct.
- c. **W** work together to ventilate the patient using a BVM. This should be done using two rescuers one holding the mask to achieve an optimal seal and the other to deliver ventilations.
- d. **S** slow and small ventilations to produce visible chest rise.

It is required that the airway be monitored continuously through waveform capnography (ALS providers) and pulse oximetry.

### Notes:

- 1. The goal of airway management is to ensure adequate ventilation and oxygenation. Initial airway management should always begin with BLS maneuvers.
- 2. Avoid excessive ventilation. In non-arrest patients, ventilation rates should be:
  - a. Adults 10/minute
  - b. Children 20/minute
  - c. Infants 30/minute