Intubation Checklist : critically ill adults – to be done with whole team present.

Prepare the patient

- ❑ **Reliable IV / IO access**
- ❑ **Optimise position**
  - ❑ Sit-up?
  - ❑ Mattress hard
- ❑ **Airway assessment**
  - ❑ Identify cricothyroid membrane
  - ❑ Awake intubation option?
- ❑ **Optimal preoxygenation**
  - ❑ 3 mins or ETO_2 > 85%
  - ❑ Consider CPAP / NIV
  - ❑ Nasal O_2
- ❑ **Optimise patient state**
  - ❑ Fluid / pressor/ inotrope
  - ❑ Aspirate NG tube
  - ❑ Delayed sequence induction
- ❑ **Allergies?**
  - ❑ ↑ Potassium risk?
    - avoid suxamethonium

Prepare the equipment

- ❑ **Apply monitors**
  - ❑ SpO_2 / waveform $ETCO_2$ / ECG / BP
- ❑ **Check equipment**
  - ❑ Tracheal tubes x 2
    - cuffs checked
  - ❑ Direct laryngoscopes x 2
  - ❑ Videolaryngoscope
  - ❑ Bougie / stylet
  - ❑ Working suction
  - ❑ Supraglottic airways
  - ❑ Guedel / nasal airways
  - ❑ Flexible scope / Aintree
  - ❑ FONA set
- ❑ **Check drugs**
  - ❑ Consider ketamine
  - ❑ Relaxant
  - ❑ Pressor / inotrope
  - ❑ Maintenance sedation

Prepare the team

- ❑ **Allocate roles**

One person may have more than one role.

- ❑ Team Leader
- ❑ 1st Intubator
- ❑ 2nd Intubator
- ❑ Cricoid force
- ❑ Intubator's assistant
- ❑ Drugs
- ❑ Monitoring patient
- ❑ Runner
- ❑ MILS (if indicated)
- ❑ Who will perform FONA?

- ❑ **Who do we call for help?**
- ❑ **Who is noting the time?**

Prepare for difficulty

- ❑ **Can we wake the patient if intubation fails?**
- ❑ **Verbalise** "Airway Plan is:"
  - ❑ **Plan A:**
    Drugs & laryngoscopy
  - ❑ **Plan B/C:**
    Supraglottic airway
    Face-mask
    Fibreoptic intubation via supraglottic airway
  - ❑ **Plan D:**
    FONA
    Scalpel-bougie-tube
- ❑ **Does anyone have questions or concerns?**

Can't Intubate, Can't Oxygenate (CICO) in critically ill adults

CALL FOR HELP

Declare "Can't Intubate, Can't Oxygenate"

Plan D: Front Of Neck Airway: FONA

Extend neck

Ensure neuromuscular blockade

Continue rescue oxygenation

Exclude oxygen failure and blocked circuit

Scalpel cricothyroidotomy

Equipment:
1. Scalpel (wide blade e.g. number 10 or 20)
2. Bougie (≤ 14 French gauge)
3. Tube (cuffed 5.0-6.0mm ID)

Laryngeal handshake to identify cricothyroid membrane

Palpable cricothyroid membrane

Transverse stab incision through cricothyroid membrane
Turn blade through 90° (sharp edge towards the feet)
Slide Coudé tip of bougie along blade into trachea
Railroad lubricated cuffed tube into trachea
Inflate cuff, ventilate and confirm position with capnography
Secure tube

Impalpable cricothyroid membrane

Make a large midline vertical incision
Blunt dissection with fingers to separate tissues
Identify and stabilise the larynx
Proceed with technique for palpable cricothyroid membrane as above

Trained expert only

Other FONA techniques

Non-scalpel cricothyroidotomy
Percutaneous tracheostomy
Surgical tracheostomy

Post-FONA care and follow up

- Tracheal suction
- Recruitment manoeuvre (if haemodynamically stable)
- Chest X-ray
- Monitor for complications
- Surgical review of FONA site
- Agree airway plan with senior clinicians
- Document and complete airway alert

This flowchart forms part of the DAS, ICS, FICM, RCoA Guideline for tracheal intubation in critically ill adults and should be used in conjunction with the text.

Tracheal intubation of critically ill adults

Pre-oxygenate and Checklist

Position: head up if possible
Assess airway and identify cricothyroid membrane
Waveform capnograph
Pre-oxygenate: facemask / CPAP / NIV / nasal O_2
Optimise cardiovascular system
Share plan for failure

Note the time

Plan A: Tracheal Intubation

Laryngoscopy
Maximum 3 attempts

Maintain oxygenation
- **Continuous nasal oxygenation**
- **Facemask ventilation between attempts**

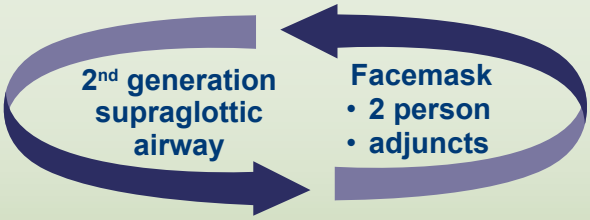
Neuromuscular block
Video or direct laryngoscopy +/- bougie or stylet
External laryngeal manipulation
Remove cricoid

Succeed → Confirm with capnography

First failure → **Call HELP**
- Video laryngoscopy
- Get Front Of Neck Airway (FONA) set

Fail → Declare "failed intubation"

Plan B/C: Rescue Oxygenation



Maximum 3 attempts each
Change device / size / operator
Open Front Of Neck Airway set

Succeed → **Stop, think, communicate**

Options
- Wake patient if planned
- Wait for expert
- Intubate via supraglottic airway x1
- Front Of Neck Airway

Fail → Declare "can't intubate, can't oxygenate"

Plan D: Front Of Neck Airway: FONA

Use FONA set
Scalpel cricothyroidotomy

Extend neck
Neuromuscular blockade
Continue rescue oxygenation

Trained expert only

Other FONA techniques

Non-scalpel cricothyroidotomy
Percutaneous tracheostomy
Surgical tracheostomy

EXPERT: one extra attempt if appropriate
Video / direct laryngoscopy
Facemask or supraglottic airway
Front Of Neck Airway

This flowchart forms part of the DAS, ICS, FICM, RCoA Guideline for tracheal intubation in critically ill adults and should be used in conjunction with the text.