

7B OROPHARYNGEAL AIRWAY (OPA)

PATIENT CARE GOALS

- To provide a patent airway for patients who cannot protect their own airway.

EMT

1. Measure the airway adjunct. An appropriately sized oropharyngeal airway will extend from the center of the patient's mouth to the angle of the jaw or from the corner of the patient's mouth to the tip of the earlobe.
2. Open the patient's mouth using the crossed-fingers technique, or jaw lift.
3. For an adult patient, insert the adjunct with the tip pointing to the roof of the patient's mouth and rotate it 180 degrees into position.
4. For a pediatric patient, insert the airway with the tip pointing toward the patient's tongue and following the anatomic curvature of the tongue.
5. If the oropharyngeal airway needs to be removed, follow the anatomic curvature of the patient's mouth. The adjunct does not need to be rotated for removal.

DOCUMENTATION KEY POINTS

- Indication for and size of oropharyngeal airway.

NOTES

None