



CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Specialist High-Level Requirement - Airway Management - Activity Development Guidelines

Purpose

This guideline aims to assist hospitals and external course providers to develop Airway Management activities that meet the Specialist High Level Requirement (SHLR) of Airway Management for intensive care medicine specialists.

It defines requirements for external course providers to be approved as SHLR Airway Management providers for the purposes of the CICM CPD program.

For CPD participants, it provides information on what approved SHLR Airway Management activities cover and how to record this activity.

This activity is recognised as a Category 1 – Education Activity under the CICM CPD Program.

Importance of Airway Management education

Airway management is an essential component of intensive care practice. The incidence of difficult or failed difficult tracheal intubation is higher in critically ill patients in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and Emergency Department (ED) than in the operating theatre. The incidence of complications from airway management, which include aspiration, hypoxia, cardiovascular instability and cardiac arrest is also significantly higher, and these complications are more likely to result in death or a permanent neurological injury (1,2). Patients with tracheostomy are also especially at risk of complications (1).

Clinician expertise, familiarity with equipment, regular training and teamwork are all vital elements in increasing the safety and efficacy of airway management in critical care.

References

- 1) Cook TM, Woodall N, Harper J, Benger J; Fourth National Audit Project. Major complications of airway management in the UK: results of the Fourth National Audit Project of the Royal College of Anaesthetists and the Difficult Airway Society. Part 2: intensive care and emergency departments. *Br J Anaesth*. 2011 May;106(5):632-42.
- 2) Russotto V, Myatra SN, Laffey JG, et al. (2021). INTUBE Study Investigators. Intubation practices and adverse peri-intubation events in critically ill patients from 29 countries. *JAMA*; 325: 1164-72. Erratum in: *JAMA* 2021; 325: 2507. 4 K Latif R, Bautista A, Duan X, et al.



Airway Management as a Specialist High Level Requirement

The Medical Board of Australia approves and publishes high-level requirements for specialists registered in Board-recognised specialties and fields of specialty practice. They are activities that must be included in a specialist's CPD program.

From January 2025, Airway Management will be a Specialist High Level Requirement (SHLR) for all CICM Fellows. The first three-year cycle to complete this requirement will be from 2025-2027.

Once every three years, it will be a requirement to complete an airway management activity that involves:

- An in-person practical workshop
- Both a preparatory and post activity component
- Simulation activities that involve performing intubation on appropriate manikins to expose participants to various airway scenarios and include team-based responses
- Participation of at least 3 hours, including preparatory, in-person and post activity
- Aspects of airway management of critically ill patients that specifically consider:
 - Airways assessment
 - Approaches to difficult airway and airway emergencies
 - Teamwork and leadership in an airway crisis
 - Familiarity with equipment
 - CICO algorithms (can't intubate, can't oxygenate)
 - Management of tracheostomy emergencies

Learning objectives

To be granted approval from the CICM CPD Program, the SHLR Airway Management activity must provide the opportunity for the participants to meet learning objectives that cover the six aspects of airway management of critically ill patients as listed in the SHLR requirements above. Learning objectives can be addressed in both pre-course and in-person activities. The distribution of content between pre-course and in-course activities is at the discretion of the course provider, though certain components (such as intubation practice on manikins and teamwork and leadership in an airway crisis) will require in-person activity. A detailed description of the learning objectives with discussion points and references are detailed in Appendix 1.

Activities can be tailored to local environments, protocols and procedures. Additional learning objectives may be required, for example, in centres that care for children.

Suggested Learning objectives



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1. **Airways Assessment**
 - Identify anatomical and physiological factors affecting airway management.
 - Evaluate previous airway management records to anticipate potential challenges.
2. **Approaches to Difficult Airways and Airway Emergencies**
 - Apply optimal positioning, techniques and optimisation strategies for managing anatomically and physiologically difficult airways.
 - Recognize and respond to airway management failures, including CICO situations.
 - Perform airway rescue procedures
 - Perform or discuss the role of video bronchoscopic intubation and emergency cricothyroidotomy.
3. **Teamwork and Leadership in Airway Crises**
 - Describe human factors and team roles in airway management.
 - Participate in structured team discussions using algorithms, checklists and cognitive aids effectively.
 - Participate in simulation-based training and post-event debriefing.
4. **Familiarity with Airway Equipment**
 - Select and use appropriate airway devices used for pre-oxygenation, facemask and supraglottic airway device ventilation, tracheal intubation and cricothyroidotomy.
 - Recognize the advantages and limitations of different airway tools and techniques.
 - Implement continuous waveform capnography for airway confirmation and patient monitoring.
5. **Management of CICO Situations**
 - Recognize and declare a CICO situation.
 - Apply a structured algorithm for CICO management, including performing cricothyroidotomy.
6. **Management of Tracheostomy and Laryngectomy Emergencies**
 - Describe common tracheostomy and laryngectomy emergencies and their high-risk nature.
 - Describe standardised safety measures and apply structured emergency algorithms for managing tracheostomy and laryngectomy emergencies.

Activity Structure

The activity must:

- Be a minimum of 3-hours duration that includes preparatory, in-person and post-course activities.
- Provide a pre-activity that may include pre-reading or other pre- activities such as online modules or multiple-choice questions that provide and/or test relevant foundation knowledge.
- It is expected that the in-person activity will be at least 90 minutes to 2 hours in duration and will involve performing intubation on appropriate manikins and



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exposing participants to various airway scenarios including team-based responses.

- Be facilitated by a CICM and/or ANZCA Fellow who is appropriately skilled and experienced to deliver the content of the session
- Provide a ratio of no more than 1 facilitator per 12 participants for the in-person activity and ensure each participant is actively engaged in the simulation activities.
- Provide a post-activity which should be a test or reflective activity and can include an evaluation of the activity. This can be provided in hard or electronic format and evidence of completion by participants should be made available in order to receive the Certificate of Completion for the activity.

Suggested Resources

The following resources are a sample of those that could be used as a knowledge base for creating pre- activities. For more detailed list of resources please review Appendix/How to guide

Pre-reading/resources

- [ANZCA Airway Assessment](#)
- [Difficult Airway Society 2015 guidelines for the management of unanticipated difficult intubation in adults](#)
- [The Vortex Approach to Airway Management](#)
- [Fourth National Audit Project. Major complications of airway management in the UK: Part 2: intensive care and emergency departments.](#)
- [Guidelines for the management of tracheal intubation in critically ill adults](#)
- [ANZCA PG56\(A\) Guideline on equipment to manage difficult airways 2021](#)

CICM CPD Diary recording

Approved SHLR Airway Management courses will appear in the activities list in your CPD Diary. Certificates of Completion will be required to be uploaded as evidence.

Alternatively, participants and facilitators can record this activity in their CPD Diary under:

- SHLR CICM Airway Management participant (Category 1 Education Activity)
- SHLR CICM Airway Management facilitator (Category 1 Education Activity)

Certificates of Completion or Confirmation of Facilitation will be required as evidence.