

Bag-Mask Ventilation

With a Self-Inflating Resuscitator Bag

Bag-mask ventilation can be performed by 1 or 2 trained caregivers



Self-inflating Resuscitator Bag



Face mask



Oxygen



Properly sized face mask (bridge of nose to chin)

What is bag-mask ventilation?

Bag-mask ventilation is a way to deliver breaths and oxygen to your child with a self-inflating resuscitator bag and a properly fitting face mask.

Some children may need occasional “bagging” as part of their emergency care plan and some will need it only in a breathing emergency.

We will give you an individualized emergency plan for you to follow before you leave the hospital.

A trained caregiver can provide bag-mask ventilation to a child for two main reasons:

- When they are conscious, but having troubled or inadequate breathing.
- When they have stopped breathing, are unresponsive and you need to breathe for them and start CPR.

What are the signs of troubled or inadequate breathing?

- Poor or no chest rise
- Poor skin color or a drop in oxygen level (O₂ sats)
- Inadequate breath sounds
- Child is frightened and struggling to take a breath
- Abnormally low respiratory rate

What are signs of a breathing emergency?

- Not breathing (apnea)
- Unconscious, non-responsive

Equipment you will need

- Self-inflating resuscitator bag of the correct size (infant, child, adult)
- Face mask of the correct size
- Oxygen (check the amount of gas in the tank)
- Shoulder roll



Proper “CE” clamp grip of face mask

How do I hold the resuscitator bag?

Refer to the drawing (on the left) for proper grip of a face mask.

We refer to this as a “CE” clamp. The CE clamp is the correct way to hold the mask against your child’s face and create a good seal so oxygen breaths can be given.

1. With one hand (usually your non-dominant hand), use your thumb and pointer finger (in a C shape) to hold the mask in place over the nose and mouth. Use your other 3 fingers (spread in a capital E shape) to lift the jaw and open your child’s airway. Avoid letting your finger press on the throat.
2. Then use your other hand to squeeze the resuscitator bag (with oxygen attached) to deliver the breaths.
3. Deliver 1 breath every 3 seconds. The goal is to have good chest rise and time to exhale.

Steps to take when giving bag-mask ventilation for an unconscious breathing emergency

1. Call 911
2. Place the child on their back on a flat firm surface (floor)
3. Put the shoulder roll in place. For infant, place roll under shoulders; for older child, place the roll under the neck. Turn on the oxygen to the resuscitator bag
4. Place the mask on the face and create a seal with a CE Clamp and begin bagging. Watch for good chest rise.
5. Remain calm and continue bagging until the paramedics arrive.



To Learn More

- Respiratory Care
206-987-2258
- Your child’s healthcare provider
- seattlechildrens.org

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your child’s nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.

Steps to take when giving bag-mask ventilation for non-emergency (struggling) breathing

1. Position you child as best suited and put shoulder roll in place.
2. Turn on the oxygen to the resuscitator bag.
3. Place the mask on the face and create a seal with a CE Clamp and begin bagging. Watch for good chest rise.
4. If child does not respond and breathing does not get better, call 911.

Seattle Children’s offers interpreter services for Deaf, hard of hearing or non-English speaking patients, family members and legal representatives free of charge. Seattle Children’s will make this information available in alternate formats upon request. Call the Family Resource Center at 206-987-2201.

This handout has been reviewed by clinical staff at Seattle Children’s. However, your child’s needs are unique. Before you act or rely upon this information, please talk with your child’s healthcare provider.

© 2019 Seattle Children’s, Seattle, Washington. All rights reserved.