

AIRWAY MANAGEMENT SCENARIO

(Test administrator dialogue provided in italics)

You are a nurse in the ER examining a 20-year-old female patient who presents with shortness of breath. The patient states between breaths she has a history of asthma and feels like she can't breathe.

1. Examinee performs primary assessment: assessing airway, breathing, and circulation. *(Airway is patent; patient is breathing rapidly, 30 RR; wheezing heard bilaterally on auscultation; 88% O₂ saturation; 115 HR; 130/84 BP)*
2. Activates emergency response. *(Respiratory therapist has been called and is on their way)*
3. Provides supplemental oxygen to patient. *(Ask examinee what is appropriate oxygenation level?)* Examinee states 94% or greater.

You administer supplemental oxygen to the patient but oxygen saturation is not improving. Respiratory therapy arrives and administers albuterol treatment. There is no marked improvement in patient's condition and vital signs begin to deteriorate. Patient is gasping for air.

4. Demonstrates effective ventilation using bag-mask. Ask examinee what is correct ventilation rate and speed? One breath every 6 seconds, over 1 second each.
5. Examinee recognizes the need for an advanced airway and places one.

ACLS Skills Verification Checklist - Airway Management

| Skill Tested | Completed | |
|--|-----------|----|
| | Yes | No |
| Performs primary assessment: Assesses airway, breathing and circulation | | |
| Activates emergency response (calls for help) | | |
| Administers supplemental oxygen (maintains oxygen saturation 94% or higher) | | |
| Performs effective bag-mask ventilation (once every 6 seconds, given over 1 sec) | | |
| Recognizes need for an advanced airway | | |