

# GUIDELINES FOR PARAMEDIC INTUBATION EXPERIENCE IN OPERATING ROOMS AT SWMC

**TIME: 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** All EMS providers **must be scrubbed and ready to go by 7:30 a.m.** If you have a name tag with an agency name printed on it, please wear it. If you don't, a sticker name tag will work.

1. Introduce yourself to the anesthesiologist before the patient is taken into the O.R. You must be forward and search out each anesthesiologist, preferably at the start of the day, i.e., 0700 – 0730. The one common grievance voiced by the anesthesiologist was paramedics popping unannounced into the O.R. just before the patient goes to sleep.
2. Do not assume you will be intubating a patient. Even in a general case there may be a variety of reasons why it is not appropriate for you to be involved with a particular patient. If nothing else for you is going on in other rooms, ask if you can watch. You can pick up valuable pointers even if you don't do the intubation. When the induction sequence is through, ask questions!!
3. Give an honest assessment of your airway/intubating skills and experience.
4. The anesthesiologist is taking a risk to the patient and to their reputation by involving you in the patient's care. Be very careful of teeth!
5. Keep talk to a minimum until the patient is asleep.
6. Communicate while you are intubating. Verbalize what you see and don't see. This will ease some of the anesthesiologist's anxiety of someone else placing the endotracheal tube. It also may allow him or her to help you more quickly place the ETT properly.
7. Wear gloves.
8. Don't put a dirty laryngoscope blade on the anesthesia cart without first wrapping it or laying it in an emesis basin. Ask the anesthesiologist where he/she wants it placed.
9. Ask if you can ventilate the patient once he/she is asleep. There is much more to airway management than intubation. Feel free to ask questions!! It shows you're interested in learning and it keeps us on our toes!! If you have any questions or have had any problems with a particular anesthesiologist, please contact Dr. Wittwer. We want your experience at SWMC to be as pleasant and rewarding as possible. We're doing this because we want to help you improve your skills.

If you are unable to make your scheduled appointment, please contact ASAP: Your agency's Medical Officer and the Southwest Region EMS & Trauma Care Council, (360) 576-8197.

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