



# Amherst Fire District Procedure Capnography

## **Clinical Indications:**

- Capnography should be applied on non-breathing patients when using endotracheal or supraglottic airways and for those patients with severe respiratory distress.

## **Procedure:**

1. Attach an inline sampling line between the ventilation source and the endotracheal tube or supraglottic airway in non-breathing patients or use an oral/nasal sampling set for those in respiratory distress.
2. Note CO<sub>2</sub> level and waveform changes. These are to be documented on all patients where capnography is used.
3. The capnometer shall remain in place with the airway and be monitored throughout the prehospital care and transport.
4. Any loss of CO<sub>2</sub> detection or waveform indicates an airway problem and should be documented.
5. The capnogram should be monitored as procedures are performed to verify or correct the airway problem.
6. Document the procedure and results on/with the Patient Care Report (PCR).

## **Certification Requirements:**

- Successfully complete an annual skill evaluation inclusive of the indications, contraindications, technique, and the possible complications of the procedure.