DAS AirDrills - Facilitator User Guide

For use with the DAS 2025 Education Resource Pack

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1. Purpose and Background

The DAS AirDrills* are structured, low-fidelity simulation resources designed to support the safe, consistent, and standardised implementation of the DAS 2025 Guidelines for Unanticipated Difficult Tracheal Intubation (Plans A–D). They form part of the Educational Package and are intended to standardise training, reinforce shared language, and strengthen the awareness of human factors across all teams involved in airway management.

2. Concept: 'Drills' as Low-Fidelity Simulation

These drills are focused table-top or 'tea-trolley' style sessions that bring teams together to practice the cognitive and communicative components of crisis management without requiring a manikin or high-fidelity simulator.

They are designed to:

- Rehearse decision-making, declaration, and communication around the DAS 2025 algorithm.
- Encourage muscle memory for language ('*Failed intubation declared*', *'Can't intubate, can't oxygenate'*).
- Embed local familiarity with equipment, team roles, and escalation pathways.
- Promote psychological safety and reflection in a low-stakes environment.

Typical duration: 15–20 minutes

These drills are intended to be teams based therefore inclusion of anaesthetic assistants, ODP's, scrub/recovery staff, theatre coordinators etc. is encouraged. The airway participants can include all grades of anaesthetists and clinicians involved in airway management (e.g. Critical Care or Emergency Department clinicians/practitioners). Setting of the drills can be flexible and open to adjustment based on clinical setting.

Facilitators can include Simulation/Education Faculty, Airway Leads or experienced anaesthetists.

3. The 'Pause–Play–Rewind' Framework

This structured learning method underpins all DAS AirDrills and ensures clarity, repetition, and retention.

**This is an active document – and may be open to refinement based on user feedback.*

Phase	Purpose	Facilitator Role	Example
Pause	Introduce scenario and objectives. Let participants think aloud and reflect.	Pause the action at key trigger points.	*'Pause here - where are we on the algorithm now?' 'How can we make this clear?'*
Play	Resume scenario.	Observe interaction; reinforce adherence to DAS Plans A–D.	*'Let's play from declaration - proceed as a team through Plan B.'*
Rewind	Restart from key transitions to consolidate learning and test retention.	Adjust difficulty or team composition; focus on handovers and leadership.	*'Let's repeat from the declaration of CICO and run again with role allocation.'*

4. Setting Up a Local Drill

Preparation:

- Identify suitable space (theatre coffee room, anaesthetic room, or trolley bay).
- Display or bring the DAS 2025 Airway Algorithm (Plans A–D).
- Ensure airway trolley, eFONA kit, and capnography printouts (optional) are available.
- Prepare Facilitator Prompt Sheet and Discussion Points for each Plan.

Running the Session:

1. Brief participants and emphasise this is an opportunity to understand the changes to the DAS algorithm and practice implementing them

2. Present the opening scenario as per drill script.

3. Guide through Pause–Play–Rewind flow, prompting transitions through Plans A–D.

4. Focus on language, transitioning, and escalation, not technical performance.

5. Discuss local factors such as equipment location or escalation process.

6. Aim for concise, high-impact discussion (~10 mins).

7. After delivery please complete the DAS feedback survey (attached QR link) to help guide the ongoing iterative development and refinement of educational material.

5. Debriefing

Structured debrief is central to embedding learning and reinforcing shared mental models. Debriefing the scenarios should be carried out using a model that the facilitator is familiar with. The model below is an example of a structure that can be used.

1. Reactions - How did that feel?'
   Acknowledge emotional responses; normalise uncertainty.

2. Description of event – What happened?
Discuss sequence of events, language, escalation, communication

3. Analysis - Why did this happen?'
   Discuss human factors, and local systems.

3. Application - What will you do differently in the future?'
   Encourage participants to identify 1–2 key takeaways and capture improvement ideas.

6. Integration into Local Education Programmes

- Incorporate Air-Drills into weekly education, on-call handovers, or M&M meetings.
- Rotate through Plans A–D for full coverage.
- Combine with AirBites (technical skill cards) and AirClips (videos) for blended learning.
- Deliver interprofessionally to strengthen teamwork.
- Submit participation data via QR feedback for quality assurance monitoring.

7. Facilitator Tips

- Keep the session positive and supportive; avoid performance pressure.
- Use open questions to promote reflection.
- Reinforce standardised terminology and reference DAS 2025 algorithm.
- Summarise key learning visually and signpost additional resources.

8. Summary

DAS AirDrills are designed to reinforce guideline familiarity, standardise crisis language, build cross-disciplinary teamwork, and promote psychologically safe discussion. Consistent use creates a shared safety culture and embeds DAS 2025 principles in clinical practice.

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