

DAS AirBite: Plan C – Final Attempt Facemask Ventilation (15-minute teaching session for all airway managers)

Background and content:

Activities:

- Review and discuss the Plan C algorithm
- Discuss optimisation strategies for facemask ventilation (FMV)
- Explore the role of the Airway Assistant during Plan C
- Discuss the **STOP, THINK AND COMMUNICATE** moment if successful facemask ventilation in Plan C

Equipment required:

- Facemask (optional)
- Manikin and AmbuBag (optional)



Intended Learning Objectives:

Learners should be able to:

1. Describe and discuss the key steps of Plan C in the airway management algorithm.
2. Explain or demonstrate effective techniques for facemask ventilation, including two-person methods and use of adjuncts.
3. Discuss the role of the Airway Assistant during Plan C, including coordination of equipment, airway manoeuvres, and monitoring.
4. Apply the '**STOP, THINK AND COMMUNICATE**' principle to optimise decision-making and team coordination during airway management.

1. Plan C algorithm review

What's new in Plan C in the 2025 algorithm?

- Ensure help present or on the way
- Role of the airway assistant
- Priming by opening eFONA kit
- Once effective ventilation established (confirmed with sustained waveform capnography and oxygenation) → **STOP, THINK AND COMMUNICATE**
- If failure → declare **CANNOT INTUBATE, CANNOT OXYGENATE** and move to Plan D

2. Optimisation strategies for facemask ventilation

How can the final attempt at facemask ventilation be optimised?

1. Adequate neuromuscular blockade
2. Optimise patient position
3. Adjuncts (OPA and/or NPA)
4. Four handed (two-person) technique
5. Adequate depth of anaesthesia
6. Increased difficulty with FMV should be anticipated

Optional demonstration of facemask ventilation

Learners to demonstrate two-person technique.

3. Role of the Airway Assistant

What is the role of the Airway Assistant in Plan C?

Airway Assistant

- Assist facemask ventilation
- Ensure adjuncts in use
- Open eFONA kit

Why is this so important?

- Mitigates task fixation and cognitive overload - prevent the airway manager from losing situational awareness or persisting with unsuccessful actions.
- Supports shared mental model and team coordination - ensuring smooth transitions along DAS algorithm with minimal delay or confusion.

4. STOP, THINK and COMMUNICATE

What is the STOP, THINK AND COMMUNICATE moment?

Occurs once facemask ventilation is confirmed with waveform capnography:

STOP, THINK AND COMMUNICATE

Consider with senior input:

- Reversing neuromuscular blockade and waking patient up
- FONA (tracheostomy or cricothyroidotomy)

Use case examples to discuss situations that would lead to each decision

Follow up activities:

1. Signpost learners to DAS website for full guideline, algorithms and educational videos
2. Consider reviewing other DAS educational materials including AirDrills for low fidelity simulation, and AirSim scenarios for high fidelity simulation.

Feedback here:

