

RESUSCITATION POLICY PATHWAY

WAHT-TP-108

Cross Infection

Whilst the risk of infection transmission from patient to rescuer during direct mouth-to-mouth resuscitation is extremely rare, isolated cases have been reported. It is therefore advisable that direct mouth-to-mouth resuscitation be avoided in the following circumstances:

- All patients who are known to have or suspected of having an infectious disease
- All undiagnosed patients entering the Accident & Emergency Department, Outpatients or other admission source
- Other persons where the medical history is unknown

All clinical areas should have immediate access to airway devices (e.g. a pocket mask) to minimise the need for mouth-to-mouth ventilation. However, in situations where airway protective devices are not immediately available, start chest compressions whilst awaiting an airway device. If there are no contraindications, consider giving mouth-to-mouth ventilations.