# Emergency laryngectomy management

**Call for airway expert help or rapid response team or code blue**
**Look, listen and feel at the mouth and laryngectomy stoma**
A manual breathing system with a **flow-inflating bag** may help assessment (if available)
Use **waveform capnography** whenever available: exhaled carbon dioxide indicates a patent or partially patent airway

**Is the patient breathing?**

**NO**

Call rapid response team or code blue
**CPR if unresponsive AND absent or abnormal breathing**
Apply high flow oxygen to laryngectomy stoma
**If in doubt, apply oxygen to face also***

**YES**

**Apply high flow oxygen to laryngectomy stoma**
If any doubt whether patient has a laryngectomy, apply oxygen to face also*

**Assess laryngectomy stoma patency**

Most laryngectomy stomas will **NOT** have a tube in situ

Remove **stoma cover** (if present)
Remove **laryngectomy tube** (if present)
Do not remove the voice prothesis (if present)

**Can you pass a suction catheter?**

**YES**

**The laryngectomy stoma is patent**
Perform tracheal suction
Consider partial obstruction
Ventilate via stoma if not breathing
Continue ABCDE assessment

**NO**

Deflate the **cuff** (if present)
**Look, listen and feel at the laryngectomy stoma or tube**
Use waveform capnography or manual breathing system

**Is the patient stable or improving?**

**YES**

Continue ABCDE assessment

**NO**

**REMOVE THE TUBE FROM THE LARYNGECTOMY STOMA if present**
**Look, listen and feel at the laryngectomy stoma.** Ensure oxygen is re-applied to stoma
Use waveform capnography or manual breathing system with flow-inflating bag

**Is the patient breathing?**

**NO**

Call rapid response team or code blue
**CPR if unresponsive AND absent or abnormal breathing**

**YES**

Continue ABCDE assessment

**Primary emergency oxygenation**

**Laryngectomy stoma** ventilation via either
Paediatric face mask applied to stoma OR
LMA applied to stoma

**Secondary emergency oxygenation**

Attempt **intubation of laryngectomy stoma**
Small tracheostomy tube, 6.0 cuffed ETT
Consider bougie, airway exchange catheter, flexible bronchoscope +/- aintree catheter

Laryngectomy patients have an end stoma and **cannot be oxygenated via the mouth or nose**
*Applying oxygen to the face and stoma is the default emergency action for all patients with a tracheostomy