

Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
ASSESSMENT OF COMPETENCY

Assessment of Core Competencies for identification of the difficult airway

Key Document code:	WAHT-KD-017	
Key Documents Owner:	Dr Harsha Mistry	Clinical Lead for Pre-Op Assessment
Approved by:	Pre-op Directorate Governance Meeting	
Date of Approval:	4 th January 2021	
Date of review: This is the most current version and should be used until a revised document is in place	12 th November 2025	

Key Amendment

Date	Amendment	Approved by
4 th January 2021	Pre-operative assessment Key Documents approved for 3 years	Pre-op Directorate Governance Meeting
27 th December 2023	Extended document for 6 months whilst under review. Updated owner details.	Dr Harsha Mistry
12th November 2024	Document extended for 12 months whilst awaiting National Guidelines to inform if changes are required	Dr Harsha Mistry

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ASSESSMENT OF COMPETENCY
Assessment of Core Competencies for identification of the difficult airway

ASSESSMENT SPECIFICATION: Understands the principles of identifying the difficult airway from history and examination.

Anaesthetists can act as a sign off mentor. The assessment of five patient consultations is required to complete the practical element of the competency.

Knowledge Evidence

Clinical Supervisor (*please print*) Signature Date:
.....

Candidate (*please print*)..... Signature Date:
.....

Ward/Department: Directorate/PCT Location:
.....

Comments by Supervisor

Comments by Candidate:

When you have completed your competencies a copy should be retained as evidence of your competency for your professional portfolio and a PHOTOCOPY of this completed record sent to your manager for your personal folder and to Learning and Development Department, Charles Hastings Education Centre, WRH.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT OF COMPETENCY

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA	COMPETENT- Mentor Initial & Date Anaesthetists can act as a sign off mentor.				
	1	2	3	4	5
Demonstrates knowledge and understanding of the rationale for comprehensive airway assessment.					
Demonstrates a structured approach to the airway assessment					
Able to interpret relevant clinical findings					
Assesses Mouth opening >2 fingers					
Assesses jaw protrusion Class A,B or C					
Assesses Thyromental distance >6.5 cm (or 3 fingers width)					
Assesses dentition with care to identify poor dentition or extensive orthodontic work which may be damaged at laryngoscopy					

Assesses Mallampati Score graded as 1 to 4 with awareness of the increased risks with grade 3 and 4 associated with other airway examination results.					
Assesses cervical movement using manual palpation of the neck and enquires about upper limb symptoms especially in the presence of arthritis					
Completes documentation as required					
Escalates any concerns clearly to the Anaesthetist.					
Utilises airway alert form if supplied via notes, patient or GP					
<p>I declare that I have supervised this practitioner and found him/her to be competent as judged by these knowledge and performance criteria</p> <p>Main Clinical Mentor (<i>please print</i>).....</p> <p>Signature Date:</p>	<p>I declare that I have expanded my knowledge and skills and undertake to practice with accountability for my decisions and actions</p> <p>Candidate (<i>please print</i>)</p> <p>Signature</p> <p>.....Date:.....</p>				