



August 29, 2019

Safety Alert

Airway Compromise and Pre-Hospital Nasal Pharyngeal Airway



S	<p>SITUATION</p> <p>Two hospitals have reported patient safety events related to the dislocation of the nasal pharyngeal airway pictured above. Post intubation at the hospital, it was discovered via X-ray that the airway had displaced into the bronchus of a patient. Other incidences included discovery of this nasal pharyngeal airway deep in the oropharynx during diagnostic and hospital intubation procedures.</p>
B	<p>BACKGROUND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This product is not an inventory item for Sentara Hospitals; however, in these incidences, the patient was transported to the hospital via EMS services. • Unable to determine manufacturer or distributor of this airway. • This product has a small, pliable flange that can slip through the patient’s nares into the lower airway causing major airway obstruction.
A	<p>ASSESSMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This product is prone to dislocating from the nasal pharyngeal airways to the oropharynx and lower airways. • This product is not radiopaque making radiology confirmation difficult.
R	<p>RECOMMENDATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interface with the local EMS organizations and Medical Directors to communicate incidences and to have item removed from inventory. • On-going efforts to identify manufacturer of product. • Increase awareness of possible dislocation of nasal pharyngeal airway.

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