

# Master algorithm – obstetric general anaesthesia and failed tracheal intubation

**Algorithm 1**  
Safe obstetric  
general anaesthesia

**Pre-induction planning and preparation**  
Team discussion

**Rapid sequence induction**  
Consider facemask ventilation ( $P_{max}$  20 cmH<sub>2</sub>O)

**Laryngoscopy**  
(maximum 2 intubation attempts; 3<sup>rd</sup> intubation attempt only by experienced colleague)

Success

Verify **successful** tracheal intubation and proceed  
Plan extubation

Fail

**Algorithm 2**  
Obstetric failed  
tracheal intubation

**Declare failed intubation**  
Call for help  
Maintain oxygenation  
Supraglottic airway device (maximum 2 attempts) or facemask

Fail

**Algorithm 3**  
Can't intubate,  
can't oxygenate

**Declare CICO**  
Give 100% oxygen  
Exclude laryngospasm – ensure neuromuscular blockade  
Front-of-neck access

Success

Is it essential / safe to proceed with surgery immediately?\*

No

Yes

Wake<sup>§</sup>

Proceed with surgery<sup>§</sup>



\*See Table 1, §See Table 2

