

4-3 Emergency evacuation v.1

Anaesthetised or sedated patient requires unplanned transfer because of environmental hazard (e.g. flood, fire, smoke, structural collapse, noxious gas).

START

- 1 Consider if patient can be safely moved: if not see Box A.
- 2 Stop any operative procedure as soon as safe. Pack and cover wounds.
- 3 Transfer patient to bed or trolley. Transfer on operating table in extremis.
- 4 Evacuate non-essential staff. Consider calling for help but be aware their own safety may preclude their attendance.
- 5 Airway: Consider tracheal intubation to improve airway security if time allows.
- 6 Breathing/ventilation options:
 - Minimise oxygen usage: lowest flows possible.
 - Self-inflating bag +/- supplemental oxygen.
 - Mechanical ventilator or C-circuit require higher flows.
- 7 Circulation:
 - Ensure adequacy and security of i.v access.
 - Take adequate supplies of fluid ± infusion sets.
 - Take vasopressor(s) and/or resuscitation drug box.
- 8 Maintenance of anaesthesia:
 - Intermittent bolus propofol simplest and quickest.
 - Infusion if time allows – remember mains cable for pump if available.
 - Consider taking stocks and pump to make infusion later.
 - Take blankets and/or warming devices if possible.
- 9 If time allows, assemble adequate supply of drugs (Box B).
- 10 Take existing monitoring and mains cabling.
- 11 Agree and communicate staff and patient muster points (Box C).

Box A: UNABLE TO MOVE PATIENT

- Ensure adequate depth of anaesthesia.
- Ensure adequate reserve: 100% oxygen, low flow, fill vaporiser.
- Ensure adequate neuromuscular blockade if relevant.
- Evacuate all staff, including anaesthetist when indicated.
- Inform rescue services and theatre coordinator.

Box B: DRUGS

- Drugs may not be readily available at muster point
- **Aim to take:**
 - Oxygen
 - Propofol /other hypnotic
 - Neuromuscular blockade
 - Vasopressor(s)
 - Analgesics
 - i.v. fluids
 - Neuromuscular reversal if extubation anticipated

Box C: MUSTER POINT

- Able bodied → adjacent safe zone
- Anaesthetised/sedated patient → area with appropriate access to oxygen and medications, e.g. theatre, recovery or critical care area in a safe zone.
- Inform rescue services and relevant coordinator of location.

Box D: ROUTE

- Ensure route avoids original hazard and any consequent ones.
- Caution using lifts, especially in fire.