



August 29, 2019

**Safety Alert**

**Airway Compromise and Pre-Hospital Nasal Pharyngeal Airway**



<b>S</b>	<p><b>SITUATION</b></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>B</b>	<p><b>BACKGROUND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This product is not an inventory item for Sentara Hospitals; however, in these incidences, the patient was transported to the hospital via EMS services.</li> <li>• Unable to determine manufacturer or distributor of this airway.</li> <li>• This product has a small, pliable flange that can slip through the patient’s nares into the lower airway causing major airway obstruction.</li> </ul>
<b>A</b>	<p><b>ASSESSMENT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This product is prone to dislocating from the nasal pharyngeal airways to the oropharynx and lower airways.</li> <li>• This product is not radiopaque making radiology confirmation difficult.</li> </ul>
<b>R</b>	<p><b>RECOMMENDATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interface with the local EMS organizations and Medical Directors to communicate incidences and to have item removed from inventory.</li> <li>• On-going efforts to identify manufacturer of product.</li> <li>• Increase awareness of possible dislocation of nasal pharyngeal airway.</li> </ul>

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