

## Spit Hood

Purpose: To provide guidelines for the use of the spit hood. The spit hood shall only be utilized when an ill or injured person is behaving in such a manner as to interfere with their examination, treatment, or transport by trying to spit on an EMS provider or bystander. If patient restraint or sedation is necessary, refer to **Patient Restraint and Patient Procedural Sedation Protocols.**

### Indications

- A. Restrained patient who is combative, aggressive and/or altered and is spitting or attempting to spit on EMS providers or other public safety personnel.
- B. The spit hood is to be used as a temporary measure only while a patient is in the care of the EMS personnel and during transport.

### Contraindications

- A. Patient is unable to adequately maintain their own airway.
- B. Spit hood is too small or leads to improper fit that may compromise breathing or cause other soft tissue injury.
- C. Patient is vomiting.

### Procedure

- A. EMS placement of spit hood
  - a. Verify that patient is breathing effectively and has a patent airway. Ensure that the patient's nose and mouth are unobstructed at all times.
  - b. Remove patient's eyewear before application of spit hood.
  - c. Apply spit hood and adjust for proper fit as per manufacturer's instructions.
  - d. Continuously monitor patient's airway, respiratory status, and pulse oximetry.
  - e. Immediately remove surgical mask, oxygen mask, or spit hood if there is any question of airway compromise or other clinical deterioration.
- B. EMS receiving patient with a spit hood in place

Section  
Spit Hood

Initial Date: 1/28/2025

Section 7-30

---

- a. Assess spit hood type. If not an MCA-approved hood, carefully remove the spit hood and replace as per steps above.
- b. If spit hood is MCA-approved, verify proper placement and monitor as per steps above.

NOTE:

- A. If the use of the spit hood is contraindicated due to improper fit, use of a surgical mask or non-rebreather mask is permitted, and the same monitoring shall be performed.
  - a. Note: **Never** place anything over the face of a patient actively vomiting. B. Only MCA-approved commercial devices may be approved for use.