

# HIGH FLOW NASAL OXYGEN

## Indications

### Anesthesia use ONLY

1. For **optimization of pre-oxygenation** prior to induction of general anesthesia
2. For the **anticipated difficult airway** as an adjunct to **maintain oxygenation** during intubation, including awake fiberoptic intubation
3. During **extubation** to reduce risk of immediate respiratory complications



Scan the QR code to access guidelines & training materials online on Moodle

## Contraindications

### Absolute contraindications:

- High fire risk procedures
  - including use of lasers or diathermy close to the airway
- Significant untreated pneumothorax
- Known/suspected skull base fracture, or a communication between the nasal cavity and intracranial space
- Recent functional endoscopic sinus surgery
- Complete nasal obstruction
- Active epistaxis
- Prolonged pre-operative or post-operative use
- Airway disruption including laryngeal fracture or tracheal rupture

### Relative contraindications

- Partial nasal obstruction
- Contagious pulmonary infections, e.g.: active tuberculosis
- If needed for patient with COVID-19, appropriate PPE and appropriate **red zone measures** are required
- Any contraindication to hyperoxia such as bleomycin usage
- In conjunction with positive pressure ventilation via face mask

## Set-up

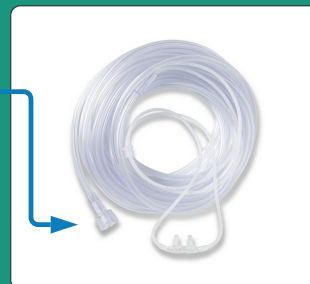
Confirm meter is capable of delivering high flow: **10-70L/min**

Attach nasal cannula with a **screw mount**

### Recommended Flow rates:

- 10L/min while patient is awake
- 10 - 40L/min while patient has moderate sedation
- 40 - 70L/min while patient is under GA

If using HFNO with face mask, **ensure APL valve is open** and **DO NOT apply positive pressure ventilation**



**Locations:**  
HFNO meters are attached to *all* anesthetic machines on both campuses

