

## **Can't Intubate, Can't Oxygenate (CICO) in critically ill adults Adapted for COVID-19**

**CALL FOR HELP**

**Declare "Can't Intubate, Can't Oxygenate"**

### **Plan D: Front Of Neck Airway: FONA**

Extend neck

Ensure neuromuscular blockade

Exclude oxygen failure and blocked circuit

#### **Personnel and PPE**

**New staff must don full checked PPE**

**Most appropriate airway manager to perform FONA**

### **Scalpel cricothyroidotomy**

**Equipment:** 1. Scalpel (wide blade e.g. number 10 or 20)  
2. Bougie ( $\leq 14$  French gauge)  
3. Tube (cuffed 5.0-6.0mm ID)

#### **Laryngeal handshake to identify cricothyroid membrane**

##### **Palpable cricothyroid membrane**

Transverse stab incision through cricothyroid membrane  
Turn blade through 90° (sharp edge towards the feet)  
Slide Coudé tip of bougie along blade into trachea  
Railroad lubricated cuffed tube into trachea  
Inflate cuff, ventilate and confirm position with capnography  
Secure tube

##### **Impalpable cricothyroid membrane**

Make a large midline vertical incision  
Blunt dissection with fingers to separate tissues  
Identify and stabilise the larynx  
Proceed with technique for palpable cricothyroid membrane as above

#### **Post-FONA care and follow up**

- Closed tracheal suction
- Recruitment manoeuvre (if haemodynamically stable)
- Chest X-ray
- Monitor for complications
- Surgical review of FONA site
- Agree airway plan with senior clinicians
- Document and complete airway alert